

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

## INSIDE

Fidel Castro speech:  
'Sovereignty not negotiable'

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VOL. 59/NO. 31 AUGUST 28, 1995

## 3,500 demonstrate for new trial for Abu-Jamal

Protest deals a blow to use of the death penalty

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA — The death penalty was dealt a blow here August 12 as more than 3,500 people marched to celebrate the stay of execution for Black activist Mumia Abu-Jamal and to demand a new trial for him. Thousands of young people from around the country chanted "Free Mumia Now" as they left city hall and marched to the Constitution Mall. Abu-Jamal, scheduled to be executed August 17, was granted a stay of execution by Common Pleas judge Albert Sabo on August 7.

Sabo, known as a "hanging judge," put Abu-Jamal on death row for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia cop. Members of Sabo's staff said this was the first stay of execution he has ever granted.

The judge has slated twice as many people for state-sanctioned murder than any other judge in the United States.

"No one could have predicted that this movement would have grown and mushroomed as it has among such a broad spectrum of people," Abu-Jamal told radio reporters in an interview the week before the rally.

Support for Abu-Jamal picked up steam as the execution date drew near. Several rallies were organized on his behalf in other cities around the United States including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, St. Louis, Houston, and Chicago. Similar actions took place in Paris, London, Dublin, Ireland; Sydney, Australia;



Activists marching in Philadelphia August 12 to demand new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Worldwide protests forced "hanging judge" Sabo to issue his first stay of execution.

Pretoria, South Africa; and Volta Redonda, Brazil.

"We are here to tell the powers that be that there should be an end to capital punishment," Clarence Brandley, a former death row inmate, told the crowd. "We want to demand a new trial."

Brandley was framed up on charges of rape and murder in Texas and freed after

protests won him a new trial. Brandley had been in Philadelphia for a week before the demonstration to organize support for Abu-Jamal. "Keep up the fire because the war has not been won," Brandley added.

A broad range of organizations and prominent individuals endorsed the demonstration, including former New

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## Debate widens about World War II as thousands protest atom bombings

BY DOUG JENNESS

HIROSHIMA—"Our officers said we shouldn't go to Hiroshima for the ceremonies on August 6," a young U.S. marine told us. "They said people wouldn't like it and it might cause problems."

He was traveling with his Japanese wife and new-born baby on the train from Hiroshima to Osaka, where they were going to get a flight to Detroit to see his parents. His father is an auto worker there. Three of us from the Socialist Workers Party delegation to the 50th anniversary activities in Hiroshima were also headed for the Osaka airport.

"Even if you wore civilian clothes?" Mark Friedman from Los Angeles asked him.

"It didn't make any difference," the young man replied.

We were reminded of an earlier conversation with the taxi driver who took us to the Peace Memorial Park for the main ceremonies marking the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

After asking where we were from, the driver said, "I'm glad you've come. It's good that people from your country come



Bomb survivor gives testimony at symposium in Hiroshima

here." He added, however, that he thought the annual activities in his city had become too much of a symbolic thing that was being used to attract more tourists.

At the main event, attended by 60,000 people, hundreds came from many countries, including the United States. Some had attended the week of conferences leading up to the ceremony. They came to learn and to help shine an international spotlight on the horrible deed that was done there 50 years ago.

The attempt by the U.S. military brass to discourage the young marine and his family from participating is part of the long history of Washington's efforts to prevent people from learning the truth about the atom bomb atrocity. During the U.S. military occupation of Japan, which ended in 1952, U.S. officials censored Japanese news reports and scientific publications carrying information about the A-bomb attacks.

Until 1960 the U.S. government withheld the release of photographs documenting the damage resulting from the atomic bombings. Christian Herter, then secretary of state,

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## 'Cuba Lives' assembles revolutionary youth

BY LAURA GARZA AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

HAVANA, Cuba — "Capitalism and social development have been, are, and will be eternally irreconcilable," said Cuban president Fidel Castro here August 6 at the closing session of the "Cuba Lives" International Youth Festival. "Capitalism and pillage, pillage inside and outside the country, are inseparable. Capitalism and unemployment are inseparable."

The capitalist world of the 21st century "offers no future" for youth and working people, Castro told the delegates. This world "will enter in crisis, it has to enter in crisis, and it is in this world that you will have to carry forward the ideas discussed" at the festival, Castro said. "What you've done at this international youth festival is to review the problems of today's world and draw up a program of action, of struggle."

Delegates stayed in the homes of Cuban families in Havana and seven other Cuban provinces, participated in discussions and debates in eight different workshops, and joined half a million people in an August 5 march here in support of the Cuban revolution.

At the conclusion of the festival, leaders of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) and several other delegates said the international event was an important step in beginning to bring together revolutionary youth from around the world.

"I came to learn from Cuba how to help change my country," said Victoria Fomichev, 15, of Montevideo, Uruguay. Her comment was typical among the 1,336 delegates from 67 countries who took part in the festival.

After two days in Havana, delegates piled into buses, and a few into planes, to

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## Curtis defense presses parole campaign

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — William Kutmus, lead attorney for framed-up unionist and political activist Mark Curtis, is seeking a meeting with the Iowa State Board of Parole. Requesting a September 21 meeting, Kutmus wrote the board that he would be accompanied by "a small group including members of Mr. Curtis's family and others who wish to express the widespread community support for his release on parole." Curtis has been imprisoned for the last seven years on false charges of rape and burglary.

Backers of Curtis's release have been sending in letters urging the Parole Board to free him. Kutmus and the delegation of supporters plan to take the letters to the meeting with the board in September. Such letters have been sent from as far afield as Belgium, Crete, and Brazil, as well as cities all across the United States.

"As someone who knew Mark Curtis and his wife, Kate Kaku, before he was ar-

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**600,000 strike in Turkey**

Nearly 600,000 public workers in Turkey went on strike August 8 against the government's austerity program. Three days earlier 100,000 workers marched through the capital city, Ankara, calling for an increase in the minimum wage, higher pay, and broader trade union rights.

Bekir Sami Dace, the government's minister of state, said the strike actions were illegal. He proposed a 5.4 percent increase to average wages. "If the government's attitude doesn't change, there will be tougher action," said Faruk Barut, a leader of the electricity and water workers.

**Beijing plans war exercises**

The Chinese government announced August 10 plans to fire guided missiles and live ammunition off its southern coast near Taiwan as part of upcoming military exercises. The government of Taiwan said it will conduct military exercises in October involving its own army, navy, and air force. Tensions between the nations have heightened since Taiwan's president, Lee Tung-hui, visited the United States in June.

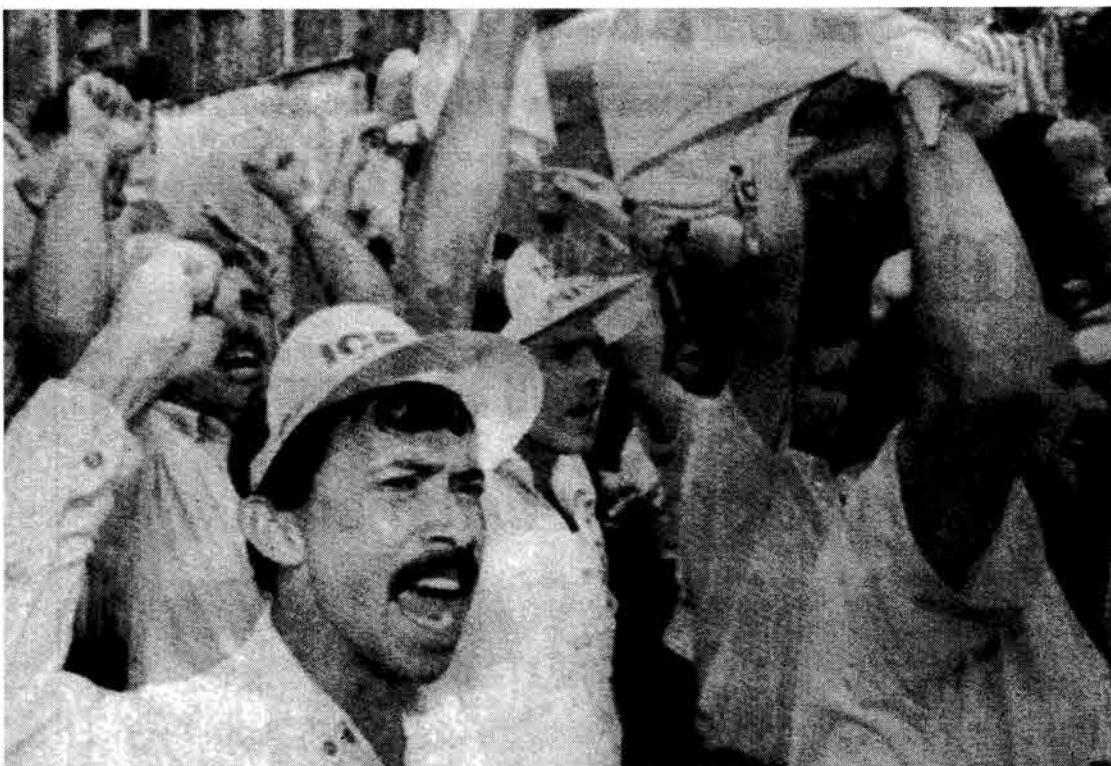
**More war looming in Rwanda**

The Rwandan government is bracing for an attack from exiles of the former Rwanda military who were driven out of the country last year after slaughtering 500,000 people. Human Rights Watch/Africa officials say that roughly 50,000 men from the former regime's Hutu-dominated military have rearmed themselves and assembled on the country's western border. "They will attack," said an official of the Rwandan government, which is organizing to repulse an invasion.

Currently, some 50,000 people charged with participating in the massacres are being held in detention. The government considers the prison situation one of the country's most pressing social problems, as the jails are only meant to hold 10,000.

**100,000 march in Costa Rica**

Some 100,000 striking teachers, state



Workers at the Electricity and the Telecommunications Institute of Costa Rica protest in front of the legislative assembly in San José. The rally called for solidarity with 50,000 striking teachers.

workers, oil workers, and others marched in Costa Rica August 7 opposing government economic policies and proposed changes in labor laws. The march, one of the largest in 25 years, choked traffic in San José, the capital city.

Some of the strikers occupied the Inter-American Court of Human Rights after the march and said they will stay there until the government listens to their demands. The teachers' strike, which started July 17, involves some 50,000 workers.

**Peasants protest in Guatemala**

Nearly 1,500 landless peasants tried to occupy the National Bank for Housing in Guatemala August 12. Many were beaten by the cops. The peasants were demanding land promised to 2,800 families who are without housing and land.

Lorenzo Pérez, a representative of the Guatemala Council for the Displaced, said 500,000 of the two million inhabitants of Guatemala City are displaced peasants who live in extreme poverty and are

homeless.

**March backs banana workers**

More than 2,000 workers, peasants, and students marched in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, August 8 to support 461 agriculture workers occupying a banana plantation owned by Chiquita Brands. The company called on Honduran president Carlos Roberto Reina to ask for help from Washington to protect its property.

Last October, peasants took over four of Chiquita's farms on the north coast. Chiquita Brands, which has operated in Honduras since 1913, exports 11 million cases of bananas per year.

**Protests, strikes hit Argentina**

A general strike in Córdoba, and labor protests in several other provinces, flared up in response to the austerity measures of Argentine president Carlos Menem. State employees, the main organizers of the actions in Córdoba, are demanding two months of back pay. Around 10,000 workers walked off their jobs and marched through downtown Córdoba August 10. The city was paralyzed as workers built barricades and impeded traffic. Last month, governor Eduardo Angeloz resigned, saying he was unable to deal with the social and economic instability.

In Salta, state employees held a work stoppage demanding three months of unpaid salaries. In Entre Ríos, 10,000 government workers protested against the emergency economic measures of governor Mario Moine. The protesters burned effigies of the governor and president Menem.

**Pollution may cause water crisis**

A recent World Bank study warned that industrial development without pollution

controls will hasten a serious water crisis among the poorest countries in the world over the next two decades. According to the report, raw sewage is dumped into rivers and other bodies of water from urban areas in many regions. The resulting pollution could be killing 10 million or more people each year.

The World Bank will provide only 5 percent of the funding needed over the next 10 years for water projects in the Third World, according to Ismail Serageldin, the bank's vice president for environmentally sustainable development.

**U.S. prisons reach record**

The U.S. Justice Department issued a report August 10 stating that 5 million people are currently under the control of the prison system, including a record 1.5 million inmates in federal, state, and local jails. The report adds that the percentage of prisoners who are Black rose from 46.5 percent to 50.8 percent between 1980 and 1993. Inmates of Latino origin almost doubled from 7.7 percent to 14.3 percent.

If the present trend continues the number of people behind bars or on probation and parole will soon eclipse in number the 6 million students enrolled full-time in colleges and universities, and within a decade pass the entire population of New York City, currently 7.3 million.

**Washington, D.C., prison guards suspended over striptease**

Seven prison guards were suspended for attending a July 26 party where female inmates performed a striptease in a crowded cellblock of about 60 inmates. Two of the female guards allegedly arranged the party. The suspensions were the latest sex-related scandals that hit the D.C. prison system in the last year, including a \$1.4 million award to six current and former prison employees who charged that high-ranking officials groped them, pressured them for sex, and punished them for complaining.

**'Jane Roe' changes sides**

Norma McCorvey, known as Jane Roe in the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling in favor of a woman's right to abortion, announced on August 10 that she has joined the staff of the antiabortion group Operation Rescue. She quit her job as marketing director at the Dallas gynecological clinic A Choice for Women.

In a radio interview McCorvey said that she was always "pro-life," but just didn't know it. Later she said that she believes in a woman's right to have a safe and legal abortion during the first trimester only. Philip Benham, a leader of Operation Rescue, commented that her total conversion will take "a little time." The antiabortion group had moved its national headquarters in March into an office next to the clinic where McCorvey worked.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

**THE MILITANT**

**International workers solidarity**

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# Belfast marchers: 'Peace talks now'

BY TONY HUNT

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — "The British government is the obstacle to peace in our country," declared Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, to an August 13 rally of several thousand in front of Belfast City Hall. The demonstrators gathered in front of this symbol of Britain's past imperial might, after a disciplined and peaceful march to commemorate the mass internment of Catholics by the British government in 1971.

The marchers, of all ages, carried placards and banners calling for "All Party Peace Talks Now," the main demand of the demonstration, and wore green ribbons to show solidarity with Irish political prisoners. Some carried signs with the names of prisoners. Placards and T-shirts proclaimed "Irish and Equal" and "Disband the RUC" (Royal Ulster Constabulary).

The British government has demanded that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) surrender all its weapons before commencing all party talks.

"Sinn Fein is committed to taking all guns — the British army guns, the plastic bullet guns, the RUC guns, and the loyalist guns — honorably out of Irish politics," Adams said. And he warned London that there could be no expectation that the IRA would disarm until this was accomplished.

He said the British government's insistence on "an IRA surrender is a diversion" from the peace process.

Earlier the march came under attack from loyalist thugs who hurled rocks and other missiles at the demonstrators. The RUC made no effort to prevent this assault but instead faced off against those seeking to defend the march.

The day before the demonstration, peaceful protests by residents of the Bogside neighborhood in Derry and Lower Ormeau in Belfast, in which *Militant* reporters participated, were attacked by the RUC. The protests were organized in these predominantly Catholic neighborhoods to prevent the loyalist "Apprentice Boys" parade from passing through.

In the Lower Ormeau the RUC deployed more than 30 armored vehicles. The riot police drew their batons and shot plastic bullets into the crowd to clear 200 peaceful protesters. One man was hospitalized with severe facial injuries caused by a plastic bullet.

Several minutes later an Apprentice Boys march of 20 from Ballynafeigh marched through the community. One of the marchers feigned the use of a submachine gun as he passed Sean Graham's bookie shop. Five people were shot dead by loyalist gunmen there in 1992.

Michael Goodwin, a resident of the



Militant/Tony Hunt

Thousands marched in Belfast August 13 to demand commencement of peace talks

Lower Ormeau community, where 2,500 people live, described these parades as "triumphant" and explained that the people of the community are demanding that they be re-routed.

At the Belfast rally, Adams saluted the resistance of the people in the areas that were attacked and condemned the RUC for its role in the largely Catholic communities. "For a long time we were told the RUC could be reformed. It cannot be reformed," he said. "The responsibility for the RUC rests with the British government and it is not acceptable to nationalists."

Adams ended the rally by explaining

the Irish struggle had gained a sense of power through 25 years of resistance. He noted that wherever he had traveled in the last few years, from South Africa to Britain to North America, "They know you people here are unbeatable. They know throughout the world the struggle for Irish freedom has found an echo."

*Tony Hunt is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester, England. Ann Fiander, a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, contributed to this article.*

## Peasant union in Brazil organizes land takeover

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

APRIL FIRST CAMP, SÃO PAULO STATE, Brazil — Grassy fields stretch to the horizon all along the road, dotted only by clumps of cattle and scattered trees. "Big landlords own this land, but they don't use it. They don't even live here," said Gilberto Vilant de Biasi as the bus headed toward the squatters camp.

Six busloads of peasants were returning from the third national convention of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST), held July 24-27 in Brasilia, the country's capital. Five thousand landless farmers from all over Brazil took part in that gathering, where they discussed the next steps in pressing their fight for land reform.

The April First camp is one of several hundred settlements organized by the MST around Brazil, where the fight for land is heating up. Some 862 families are occupying this land and demanding the government recognize their legal right to it. The farm community lies 400 miles west of São Paulo, near the Paranapanema

River.

"Besides *acampamentos* like this one, the movement has hundreds of *assentamentos* [settlements]. On the assentamentos, peasants have already established their right to the land they occupied and they're fighting for the government to give them electricity, water, schools, health care, credit, and so on," said Vilant, 26, an MST organizer who has been active in the group since he was 16.

### Landlords left lands idle

The MST members piled into flatbed trucks for the final eight-mile stretch of dirt road. "In this region we're occupying 15,000 hectares [37,000 acres] of land," Vilant explained as our truck rolled into the camp in a cloud of dust. "This area includes six big estates, which are occupied by a total of 1,500 families at April First and a few nearby camps."

"Until we started working it, this land wasn't being used productively. It was just used for a few cattle to graze," remarked Elísio Pereira, 56, over a plate of rice and

beans and rich coffee — all products now grown on their land. He and his wife, Encarnación Segura Pereira, 48, were sharecroppers in neighboring Paraná state before joining the April First settlement.

"I was living in [the town of] Presidente Prudente and was unemployed before coming here," said Antonio Carlos Alvis de Souza. "I heard about the planned occupation and signed up. We had a half-day preparatory meeting.

"Then, before sunrise on April 1, we loaded up our lumber and drove right onto the land. Watching that huge car caravan, with hundreds of us, was impressive. I never imagined we could do something like this," said Alvis de Souza.

Asked about police repression, he explained, "When we took the land there were no police to be seen. Many camps in other parts of this state, and especially other parts of the country, have been attacked by cops. But in this region there hasn't been much recent police violence because our movement is strong. We had announced our occupation on the radio for a week and mobilized our people.

"The first thing my family did April 1 was build our house. The movement organized a meeting and we divided into groups to take responsibility for different tasks — health, education, distribution of supplies. By the second day we had all our committees organized.

"We had our school functioning within three weeks — after the teachers ended their national strike, which we supported,"

Alvis de Souza noted.

Pereira explained that the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso was on the defensive because of his stated support for land reform and because the constitution authorizes the government to appropriate idle lands and distribute them to the landless.

### Still fighting for legal recognition

"The landlords don't have documentation to prove ownership of this estate. So the government agreed to negotiate with us," Pereira said. "A couple of months ago we held a meeting with representatives of the governor, the landlords, and some congressmen. We said this land should be returned to the government, who would then pay the landlords for their expenses — the houses, fences, and roads they built.

"We reached an initial agreement, but it isn't finalized and we're still fighting for it."

Another MST activist, Gilmar Contarato, said, "Olga and Isaac Souza, the owners, have holdings in Matto Grosso and Paraná states besides the one here. We know most big estates in this country were actually stolen. In many cases the landlords never paid their land taxes, and some have big debts to the Bank of Brazil.

"One of our immediate demands is that the government confiscate the estates of these landlords as payment for their debts," Contarato said. "Other landlords grow coca and other drug crops — we de-

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## Cops massacre farmers in Amazon

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Dozens of peasants were killed in northwestern Brazil August 9 when hundreds of cops attacked a farm occupied by some 500 families. The assault has sparked a national outcry against the government of President Fernando Cardoso, which has failed to carry out its promises of land reform.

On July 16, about 200 peasant families occupied the Santa Elina estate near the town of Corumbiara in the state of Rondônia, in Brazil's Amazon region. More farmers joined them in the following weeks. Half the estate is devoted to cattle grazing and the rest is abandoned land covered by bush. The landlord, Helio Pereira Moraes, lives in São Paulo.

The peasants have been demanding the government recognize their legal right to the land. Under Brazilian law, the government can take over unproductive land for settlement of landless farmers. After a large peasant demonstration in front of the presidential palace, Cardoso told leaders of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers (MST) his administration would settle 40,000 peasants in 1995. The peasants at Santa Elina are not affiliated to the MST but have its support.

A judge in Rondônia ruled in favor of the absentee landlord and ordered the eviction of the peasants. The police have tried to evict them for several weeks.

Some 200 heavily armed military police, accompanied by the landlord's gunmen, invaded the farm August 9 at 4:00 a.m. They fired tear gas on the residents, creating pandemonium in the farm camp. The cops began to shoot, resulting in one of the worst massacres in recent years.

More than 30 peasants were killed, including a seven-year-old child, and some 200 were wounded. Another 75 were reported disappeared. Two cops died during the raid. Official reports list only 11 people dead. The exact casualties are not known because the police sealed off the area.

The cops detained 300 peasants at a sports gymnasium. They also jailed another 150 men, who were freed after the intervention of a delegation of parliamentary deputies that flew in.

Some 950 landless peasants have been murdered by cops and landlords' goons in the past decade.

In a phone interview from São Paulo, MST leader Neuri Rossetto stated, "We blame the federal police for this attack, as well as the judge who ordered the eviction. We also hold the government and its land reform agency, INCRA, responsible for their failure to carry out an agrarian reform. The MST gives its full support to these landless rural workers." The Workers Party of Brazil also issued a statement condemning the massacre.

## Meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of Rob Cahalane

### Speakers:

Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary

Jason Coughlin, member of Young Socialists

Maceo Dixon, participant in fight to desegregate Boston schools

Paul Mailhot, *Militant* staff writer and YSA leader during Boston busing battle

Joan Paltrineri, worked with Cahalane during antiwar and women's liberation movements in Boston

**Sunday, August 27 2:30 p.m.**

Friends Meeting at

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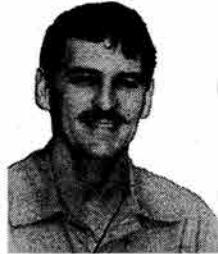
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# Out of lockup a little stronger, thanks to support

"From behind prison walls" is a regular column written by framed-up political and trade union activist Mark Curtis. To write to Curtis, send letters to him at #805338, Iowa State Penitentiary, Box 315, Fort Madison, IA 52627.



**Mark Curtis**

FT. MADISON, Iowa — On August 2 I emerged from the tomb of cellhouse 319 after a disciplinary lock-up of eleven months and ten days, including one month spent in the "hole."

For nearly a year I never left my cell, even to go to the shower, without my wrists in cuffs. Even as I left the cellhouse, I lugged my locker box wearing handcuffs all the way until just past the cellhouse door.

In prison, getting "out of jail" means trading one cellhouse for another, in my case for one of the general population

units. The maximum security Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) here in Ft. Madison is the only prison in the state that is not overcrowded. While other state prisons burst at the seams, ISP is under court order to maintain a population of 550. Everyone has their own cell; there is no double bunking. This prison is also the most restrictive. You are only allowed two hours a day in the yard for recreation and enjoying the sunshine. Until I get a job, it's the only time I'm out of the cell besides the three treks a day to the chow hall.

Nevertheless, those small freedoms and other factors have a positive psychological effect.

The general population cells are the same size as the ones in lockup, but much cleaner. So are we, since we are allowed to shower daily.

Things long denied in lockup seem like an exotic oddity. When combing my hair, I still have to break the automatic reflex of scrunching down to see my reflection in the shiny water faucet handle as I did for the many months in lockup, instead of looking in the mirror, which I can do now.

And I retrieved my property: shampoo, instant coffee, cassette player, and the typewriter I'm using to put these words down on paper.

Never having been in this yard before, I used my rec time to see what's available: a jogging track, weight lifting equipment, and pay phones. When it started to rain, I ducked into the gym, greeted friends, and watched a basketball game.

It's striking how few inmates are on the yard at any one time. About 150 men are in disciplinary and kept in their cells in the punitive units. Inmates in "protective custody" are also restricted, except for two hours in the evening. The remaining 250 to 300 men are divided into three separate yard times although most are at work in the kitchen, furniture shop, or do maintenance work and the like.

The library contains a large but mostly outdated and irrelevant collection of books. The chow hall is the home of fast eating, if not fast foods. You get 20 minutes to get through the line and eat before a buzzer sounds and a red light comes on. Like a drag race, that's the "get set" signal. You have five minutes more until another buzzer and a green light, meaning, "pop the clutch, the meal is over."

I've gotten reacquainted with old friends, one of whom told me how much he enjoyed the Pathfinder book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, with speeches by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela. He was

surprised when he learned the role Cuban troops had played in defeating apartheid.

Word got around that I was out of lockup. One young man came over and asked if I was the "political guy." We've had several wide-ranging discussions on socialism, crime, and racism. He told his friend about the *Militant* and both of them caught up with me in the chow line to ask if I thought a revolution in the United States was possible and what I thought about China. A number of men expressed interest in the defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal when they noticed me reading Abu-Jamal's book *Live From Death Row*.

I am also reading the book *Lenin's Final Fight* in an effort to better understand how Lenin fought to maintain the communist course of the Russian revolution. I will soon start a several-part discussion of this book with friends from Des Moines and Peoria who visit here on weekends.

It's also my intention to resume exercising. It has been repeatedly brought home to me that I am out of shape. Lengthy periods in lockup can have a negative effect on the body.

If I came out a little stronger in my political convictions than I went in, it is because of the solidarity of many beyond prison walls.

## Hundreds protest cop killing of youth in L.A.

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Four hundred residents of the Lincoln Heights community joined the family of José Antonio Gutiérrez at a funeral mass. The youth, 14, was killed by a cop July 29.

A stillness filled the street as the mourners emerged from the church behind the teenager's coffin. The silence was pierced by an anguished cry from María Ana Gutiérrez, who was less than 20 feet away when her son was killed.

The shooting sparked two days of tense confrontation between the police and enraged residents of the area, who hurled bottles and stones at the cops.

At an impromptu news conference outside the church, the family's lawyer, Antonio Rodríguez, demanded that the police department stop "rushing in to justify the killing," which can only lead to a cover-up. He said a suit has been initiated against the cops for "wrongful death" and violation of the slain youth's civil rights.

According to the police account, Gutiérrez was pointing a gun at them when they shot him. To substantiate this, the cops produced a pistol which they said was found on the other side of a nearby four-foot cement wall. Police officials conceded the gun had no identifiable fingerprints on it.

Seven of those who witnessed the killing insisted to reporters that the cops shot without warning and that the youth was holding a flashlight, not a gun.

Initially, the cops claimed the slain

teenager had been shot in the chest. But the coroner's autopsy showed that he was hit by three bullets, two of them in the back, near his shoulder. The third struck him in the side and one grazed his back.

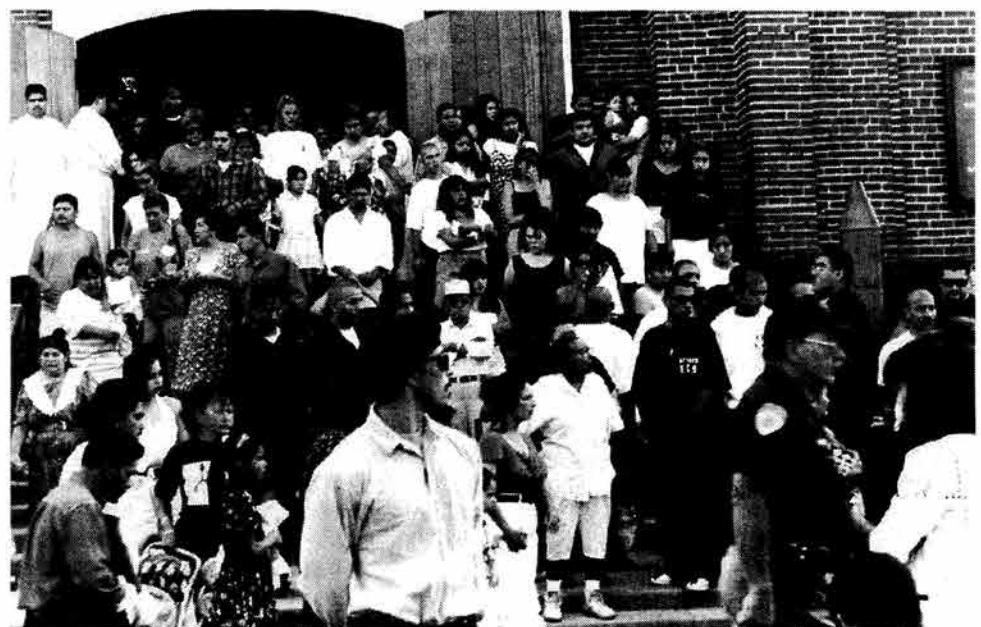
The coroner's office stated that this should not be taken to mean he was shot in the back. Police Chief Willie Williams said the location of the wounds simply indicated the youth had "begun to turn."

A police report claimed, "The officers ordered him to drop the weapon...he instead pointed at the officers." Earlier, police spokesmen said the shooter did not have time to speak to the youth.

The police took another jolt when it was revealed that officer Michael Falvo, who killed young Gutiérrez, had been one of 44 members of the Los Angeles Police Department described by the Christopher Commission as "problem" cops.

Appointed in the wake of the Rodney King beating, the commission found that these cops had an unusually high record of brutality complaints against them.

In 1991, a police board recommended Falvo be fired for provocative conduct.



Militant/Harry Ring  
Residents turn out for funeral of 14-year-old Gutiérrez, who was slain by cop.

The day after a Latino youth had been killed by the sheriff's deputy, Falvo drove through the housing project where the killing occurred, flashing his finger at residents in an obscene gesture.

Earlier, Falvo pleaded guilty to unnecessarily kicking a man and neglecting to put it in his report. For this, he was suspended 20 days.

Before that he was found guilty of clubbing two men as they knelt in front of him with their hands behind their heads. One of the victims later said, "He was beating us like we were animals." That drew Falvo a 22-day suspension.

A member of the police "gang" unit, Falvo has been assigned to a desk job since he killed Gutiérrez.

## Montreal cops get slap on wrist in beating

BY GRANT HARGRAVE

MONTREAL — Four Montreal Urban Community police officers found guilty of beating Richard Barnabé were sentenced July 13. Pierre Bergeron and Louis Sam-

son received 90 days in prison, André Lapointe 60 days, and Michel Vadeboncoeur 180 hours of community work. The jail sentences are to be served on weekends.

Barnabé, a 39-year-old taxi driver, was arrested and beaten after a car chase in December 1993 for allegedly breaking a church window. He has been in a "neuro-vegetal state" ever since.

The four officers are currently free while awaiting the outcome of their appeals and have been suspended without pay. Montreal police chief Jacques Duchesneau says he must wait for the results of a police-ethics hearing and the appeals before deciding whether or not to fire the cops.

Claudette Barnabé-Hélusset, the victim's sister, characterized the sentences as "very light." She had hoped for long jail terms. She also indicated that "justice will only have been served once the four have been fired from the police force.... Montrealers don't want those kind of police officers."

On the other side, the Policeman's Brotherhood used a news conference featuring the group's president, Yves Prud'Homme, and a full page ad in the daily papers to press its campaign against the convictions and the sentences.

The campaign by the cops attempts to win support by raising the threat that po-

lice will refuse to intervene to protect citizens' "property or lives" from suspects who "act strangely" if they are afraid that they will be open to criminal charges. It claims that police work is dangerous, the cops are not properly equipped due to budget cuts, and that the force is under staffed. Under these conditions, they say, mistakes are made, but police officers should not be held responsible for the results of their actions.

Editorials in the Montreal *Gazette* and the national edition of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* have called on the police chief to fire the four convicted officers to "restore public confidence" in the force, but they stop short of calling for increased sentences.

An editorial in Montreal's *La Presse* says the sentences are enough to send a "clear signal" of "zero tolerance" for brutality to the police, and asks sympathetically if it is necessary that the officers lose their jobs for life.

On July 21, a press conference was held by the newly formed Concerned Citizens against Police Brutality. Spokesman Dan Philip accused the Brotherhood of showing contempt for the public. "When are the police going to realize that they have to take responsibility for their actions?" he asked.

## Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

**Why is MARK CURTIS still in prison?**  
Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa. This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Pamphlet, \$6

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

# Socialists win ballot spot in Philadelphia

BY HELEN MEYERS

PHILADELPHIA — The Socialist Workers campaign will be on the ballot in Philadelphia in the November elections. The socialist candidates — Deborah Liatos for mayor and Hattie McCutcheon and John Staggs for city council at-large — are all active unionists who are involved in the struggles of working people.

To achieve this ballot victory, supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign collected 4,392 signatures, well over the 3,007 required. Activists from Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and West Virginia joined with others in Philadelphia to publicize the campaign. They introduced the socialist alternative to thousands of people at shopping malls, grocery stores, street corners, factories, and various political events.

Liatos works for USAir at the Philadelphia airport and is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1776. Staggs works at Ford Electronic and is a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1695. McCutcheon, a member of UAW Local 1069 and one of 7,000 workers recently laid off from Boeing Co., participated in an international youth festival held in Havana in early August.

At a July 29 campaign rally to celebrate the completion of the petitioning effort, socialist campaigner Bob Stanton described how in the past week campaign supporters had been involved in protests against the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and an event sponsored by the Cuba Support Coalition to raise funds for local youth going to the festival in Cuba.

They also took part in an activity sponsored by supporters of the African National Congress of South Africa and a meeting organized by Friends of Sinn Fein, which is active in the struggle against the British occupation of Northern Ireland.

Campaigners invited people they met to attend two campaign discussions. One was on the Cuban revolution today and the other, addressed by socialist candidate Staggs, was titled, "Working people confront the bosses and government attacks."

Candidates Liatos and Staggs, who petitioned on the job, reported a positive response from fellow unionists. Staggs collected 48 signatures from co-workers. "In several cases, after explaining our position to defend affirmative action, many women co-workers were eager to sign. One said, 'You got my vote. Where can I sign?'" said Staggs.

Mayoral candidate Liatos reported that political discussions take place constantly on the job. Co-workers say they've read about the socialist campaign in one of the two main Philadelphia daily newspapers or heard about it on National Public Radio or KYW, the major radio news station here. A writer for the *Philadelphia Weekly* arranged for a photographer to take pictures of the mayoral candidate at work. A photo ran with a recent article printed on the Socialist Workers Campaign.

The socialist campaign proposal that has drawn the most interest is the demand "Jobs for all — shorten the workweek with no cut in pay," Liatos noted. Many co-workers have said, "I'll vote for that." Some question if it is possible to achieve



Militant/Glova Scott

SWP candidate for city council Hattie McCutcheon campaigns in Philadelphia

this demand, since the bosses and the capitalist government will object to it. This has opened up discussions on the fight that it took by workers to win the 8-hour day and the fact that a similar social movement will be needed to win the shorter workweek today — a struggle that has the potential to unite the employed and unemployed. The socialists' defense of affirmative action has also sparked wide ranging discussions and debates on the job.

Co-workers of the socialist campaigners have a variety of positions on the case of Abu-Jamal and the death penalty, as well as on the Cuban revolution, which the socialist candidates point to as an example for working people in the United States.

The Socialist Workers candidates stand in complete contrast to the candidates of big business, such as incumbent Democratic mayor Ed Rendell. The Socialists have joined Philadelphia city workers in

their fight against the Rendell administration's imposition of a \$100 million concession contract. They also supported the Transport Workers Union's victorious strike against the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and its backers in City Hall.

The Socialist Workers campaign has vocally supported Abu-Jamal's demand for a new trial and opposes the death penalty. The candidates and their supporters marched in the August 12 demonstration here calling for justice for Abu-Jamal.

The mayor, on the other hand, maintains his position that Abu-Jamal — who has won a stay of execution — should be put to death. Thirteen years ago, Rendell was the District Attorney who helped to get the death penalty imposed against him.

Also running for Mayor are Republican Joe Rocks and Lance Haver, the candidate of the Consumer Party.

## Boston campaign 'seeks to unite working people'

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

BOSTON — Maceo Dixon, the Socialist Workers candidate for city council at-large, was informed by the Boston Election Commission (BEC) July 27 that he would be placed on the ballot in the September 19 primary election. This victory is the result of a public protest campaign demanding the socialist be put on the ballot. Dixon is an airport worker and member of the International Association of Machinists.

The Socialist Workers campaign is also running Valerie Johnson, a rail worker and member of the United Transportation Union, for city council in District 3. While the board says she did not garner the necessary signatures to be on the ballot, she will continue to campaign as a write-in candidate.

The socialist campaign began with an intensive three-week petitioning drive in working-class neighborhoods. Volunteers collected more than 1,000 signatures for Dixon and 500 for Johnson — at least double the required number.

Working people in the city have given the socialist candidates a warm response. One supporter mailed in a \$500 contribution. Others purchased the *Militant* newspaper, as well as a range of books and pamphlets, at street tables during the petitioning drive. Hundreds read statements in defense of affirmative action that socialist campaigners are distributing. Large signs in support of affirmative action, against the death penalty, and in defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal drew a lot of working people and youth to the tables for political discussion.

In spite of the broad support for the socialists to be on the ballot, the Election Commission informed Dixon July 18 that neither he nor Johnson had met the requirements. It claimed Dixon was 38 signatures short of the required 500. Immediately a ballot fight was launched.

City and state officials here have a history of excluding socialists and other candidates from the ballot. Dixon's supporters circulated a fact sheet pointing out that in spite of extensive petitioning campaigns over the last 12 years only two Socialist Workers candidates were placed on the ballot.

In 1983 Eloise Linger, Socialist Workers' candidate for mayor of Boston, was

put on the ballot after protests against BEC attempts to keep her off. In 1987 the BEC denied ballot access to socialist candidate Denise McInerney for Boston school committee. While she won in court, the ballots had already been printed.

In 1993 the BEC was rocked by a public scandal. They were exposed for undemocratically throwing 60,000 voters off the rolls. The board had also attempted to exclude five of the many candidates running for mayor, including Dixon.

There was an uproar in the city and all but Dixon got on the ballot. Karen Ray, the Socialist Workers' candidate for city council, made it on the ballot by one signature.

Socialist Workers campaigners circulated an open letter to all defenders of democratic rights this year, appealing for support in the ballot fight. A team of volunteers spent five days in the BEC office

reviewing each and every signature that was invalidated. A picket line was held July 25 outside city hall. Meanwhile, the BEC received phone calls, faxes, and letters demanding Dixon be placed on the ballot.

Dixon said in a press release, "The BEC is the gatekeeper of the present capitalist government. It is a government for the rich, of the rich, and by the rich. The BEC is a tool used to make sure that a working-class voice is not heard in the elections and subsequently it helps maintain the political monopoly of the ruling rich.

"For instance, there are many capitalist politicians in city hall and the mayor himself who oppose affirmative action," Dixon noted. "Senator Dole introduced legislation that would outlaw all affirmative action programs of the federal government for contracts, jobs, or in education. This is a travesty. My campaign seeks to

unite working people. Affirmative action is not only about past discrimination, it's about what is going on today."

Dixon has been invited to a number of candidates' forums to debate the issues. On August 21 he is slated to speak before the Boston Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO and will be interviewed by cable TV. The interview will be aired for two weeks.

Dixon also spoke at an August 8 victory rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal in downtown Boston after the framed-up activist won a stay of execution. Dixon and Johnson took part in the August 12 march and rally in Philadelphia for Abu-Jamal.

Both socialist candidates received a good response at a candidates forum sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance of Massachusetts. A victory rally was held August 4 at the local Pathfinder bookstore.

## Supporters press Curtis parole campaign

Continued from front page

rested, as someone who has followed his fate over the last seven years, and as a longtime campaigner for human rights, I would like to add my voice to those asking for his release on parole," Prasong Nutrak, a well-known political activist and owner of the Taste of Thailand restaurant in Des Moines, wrote.

After hearing a presentation of Curtis's fight for justice from a local supporter of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to the Atlanta chapter of Greenpeace, 10 members of the environmental group wrote letters to the parole board. "I certainly don't feel that Mark Curtis is someone that the community needs to be protected from, and I utterly fail to see how anyone is served by keeping Mark in jail," wrote Robert Johnson, Greenpeace coordinator in Atlanta. "Reverse this tragic miscarriage of justice as soon as possible and return this peaceful, if controversial, person to society."

T.A. McAuliffe, Chair of the Central America Network, Rocky Mountain Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church, sent a letter saying "As Curtis is no danger to the citizens of Iowa, and as it is no crime in the United States to engage in political activities and/or union organizing (many

have given their lives for this right), I respectfully urge the prompt parole of this man."

"I have wanted not to believe that we imprison persons for political reasons in this country," wrote Dorothy Rogers from Iowa City. "But when Mark is treated differently than other prisoners convicted of similar offenses and when the first entry in his prison log is 'Political Activist for El Salvador. Promotes socialist causes,' what is one to believe?"

"Despite being imprisoned as a result of an unfair trial, Mr. Curtis maintained an excellent conduct record in prison for years," wrote Thomas R. Jones, local chairman of International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers Local 1050 in Washington, D.C. "I understand that he was recently released from 'lockup' resulting from allegations against him in a prison 'hearing' in which he was denied legal counsel and was not even permitted to confront and question his accusers. If Mr. Curtis can maintain his sanity when subjected to such injustices, he should have no trouble dealing with the pressures of society outside prison. Again, I urge you to parole Mark Curtis."

For more information, or to send a letter urging freedom for Curtis, write the Mark

Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

### Filipino garment workers in Greece support Mark Curtis

ATHENS — Close to 30 Filipino garment workers gathered in front of the Philippine embassy here August 2 for their nightly meeting to discuss the next steps in their fight against deportation. That evening, however, the meeting was turned over to supporters of the Mark Curtis defense campaign.

Roland McCarthy, president of the garment workers union, introduced Natasha Terlexis, an airline worker, as a supporter of the Filipino workers' struggle. Terlexis reviewed the frame-up of the imprisoned U.S. trade unionist.

"Curtis is in jail because he fought for the rights of immigrant workers," said Joe Valencia, a leader of KASAPI, a Filipino immigrant rights organization. "He is truly a symbol for us all. He must be freed." KASAPI has backed Curtis's fight for parole.

At the end of the discussion, the workers decided to send a letter demanding Curtis's release.

—GEORGES MEHRABIAN

# Pathfinder books welcomed in Japan

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

HIROSHIMA, Japan — As our delegation of socialist workers and young socialists flew here from Los Angeles for the 50th anniversary commemorations of the atom bombings of Japan, flight attendants on the plane talked with us about the trip. One flight attendant said she was studying about Cuba and had just bought a number of books at the Harvard University bookstore. She showed us two Pathfinder titles, *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela and *Cuba for Beginners* by Rius. She then bought a copy of the *Militant* to add to her reading materials.

Once our team got to Japan we were able to set up Pathfinder displays at several conferences and rallies in the week leading up to and during the August 6 international commemorative actions.

The response to Pathfinder books reflected the political discussions taking place among antiwar activists in Japan and other countries. More than \$1,000 of literature was sold, including more than 40 Pathfinder catalogs. Young people and students were the most interested, whether they hailed from Japan, Russia, Germany, or the Dominican Republic.

Keiko, a research assistant at Hiroshima University who is studying women in the labor movement, including in the United States, purchased *The Struggle for Socialism in the "American Century"* by James P. Cannon, *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, and several other books. She took an extra catalog for her library and promised to help Pathfinder books or-

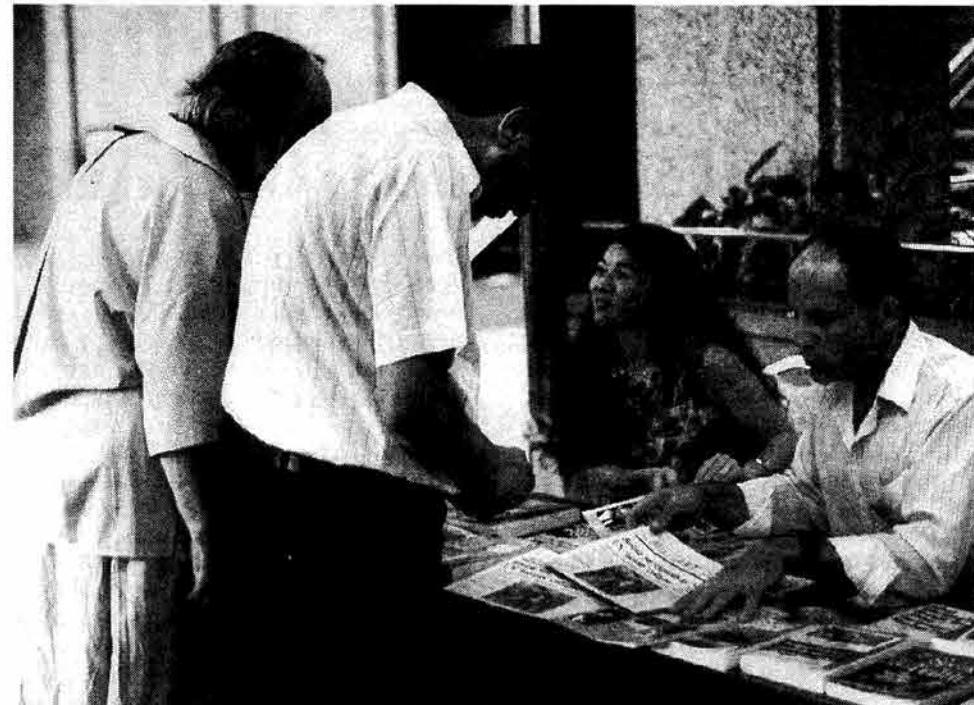
dered there.

Anton, a young Russian antinuclear activist, spent hours at the table talking with Young Socialists member Jean Tuomey and members of the Socialist Workers Party. Since high school he has been active in the fight against radioactive contamination of the Altai region, resulting from years of atmospheric and underground nuclear tests. Although he said he was short on funds, Anton bought *Lenin's Final Fight* and *New International* no. 10 featuring the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War." He also bought copies of *The History of the Russian Revolution* and *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky. The activist said he needed to "learn more about politics and real Marxism and socialism."

Young Japanese women were particularly interested in Pathfinder titles like *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara.

There were a few trade unionists at the conferences. Kenji had been part of his teachers union delegation to a recent May Day march in Havana. He started with a *Militant* and a Pathfinder catalog, but came back several times to talk about Cuba and the international crisis of capitalism. Later he bought several Pathfinder titles on the Cuban revolution.

One young Dominican who is temporarily living in Japan was part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation delegation from the United States. He was surprised to see a table with revolutionary literature



Militant

Pathfinder literature tables at antinuclear conferences were a center for discussions

and bought a number of books about the Cuban revolution. His friend, a Japanese youth who had studied Spanish in Honduras, bought a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* and a catalog. A young Cuban studying mathematics in Japan was also excited to meet us and see our literature. Members of other international delegations from Germany, Australia, New Zealand, India, Britain, and elsewhere purchased books.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the deepening crisis of Stalinism worldwide, there was interest in the books by Marx and Lenin printed by Pathfinder. Three copies of *Lenin's Final Fight* were sold, including one to the head of the Communist Party's youth group, Democratic Youth, at Tokyo University.

A couple of copies of *Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* were sold, and scores of conference participants received brochures about the defense case. Several activists plan to send letters urging parole for Curtis.

The Pathfinder table was a center of po-

litical discussion and debate at the various conferences and actions. Protectionism, the economic situation facing workers in Japan and the United States, the fight for women's equality, and the escalating war threats by the U.S. government and other imperialist powers were among the topics discussed. Debates on strategy for the antinuclear movement that were part of the plenaries and workshops often continued at the Pathfinder table.

Pathfinder sales representatives visited the International Peace Library at the Peace Memorial Park, as well as a couple of the major bookstore chains. Contact was made as well with the Hiroshima University Library. A number of students plan to help distribute Pathfinder titles to their libraries and local bookstores. In a gesture of solidarity, Pathfinder representatives contributed a copy of *Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States against the Vietnam War* by Fred Halstead to the International Peace Library for their collection of international titles.

## Now on sale: French edition of 'Second Declaration of Havana'

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — "What is it that is hidden behind the Yankees' hatred of the Cuban revolution? What is it that rationally explains [it]?"

"What explains it is fear.... Fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas."

This quote from *The Second Declaration of Havana* sums up the content of this historical document, which Pathfinder Press recently reprinted in French. Although the *Declaration* was published in the 1960s, it has been out of print for years.

In 1962, the workers and farmers who carried out a socialist revolution in Cuba refused to back down in face of military, economic, and political attack by the U.S. government. Instead, they proclaimed the powerful example of the Cuban revolution as the way forward for the oppressed and exploited throughout Latin America.

Their ringing indictment of imperialist

rule, read by Fidel Castro at a mass rally of a million people in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, retains today its full force as a manifesto of revolutionary struggle for working people everywhere.

The Pathfinder bookstore here has sold 12 copies so far, including two to workers at the MacMillan Bathurst cardboard box factory and the Canadair aerospace plant.

"When you come from a country like Haiti," said one of these workers, "a country that has been ruined by imperialism, and you see a leader like Fidel Castro who shows a way out of the crisis, you really want to read his ideas."

Three copies of the pamphlet were sold at a public meeting on July 17 on the social and economic crisis in Mexico. Another one was bought by a woman at the bookstore itself. "I am so happy to see this pamphlet in French," she said. "I've been looking for books in French on revolutionary ideas ever since I came to Canada several years ago."

A young woman who walked by the bookstore came in after seeing a poster of Che Guevara in the front window. Guevara was one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution. "My mother told me so much about Guevara and I finally can get my hands on some of his writings," she said. She bought *The Second Declaration of Havana* in English.

Pathfinder sales representatives have also been busy on the phone promoting the pamphlet and other titles in French and English. One chain of magazine stores decided to order several copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 5, which includes "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War," and "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution."

Pathfinder bookstore volunteers in Montreal are making displays of the pamphlet for literature tables and community sales, and for a sandwich board on the sidewalk in front of the store. On the September 2-3 weekend there will be a public event to help promote the pamphlet and raise money for the Socialist Publication Fund. The fund will help publish other pamphlets in French.

There is a 25 percent discount on the pamphlet for Pathfinder Readers Club members until the end of August.

New from Pathfinder

now in French

### The Second Declaration of Havana

In 1962, as the example of Cuba's socialist revolution spread throughout the Americas, the workers and farmers of Cuba issued their uncompromising call for a continent-wide revolutionary struggle.

Special offer US\$3.75/Can\$5.25

(Regular US\$5/Can\$7), for members of Pathfinder Readers Club, until August 31

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club! For a \$10 annual fee, take advantage of special offers like this and get a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder titles.

Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Luis Madrid

Pathfinder Press, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary fighters whose struggles against capitalism, racism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression point the way forward for humanity. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

With more than 500 copies ordered by campus bookstores across the United States by early August, *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels tops the list of Pathfinder titles adopted for classroom use in the upcoming fall semester. Quantities ordered range from 10 copies to 100. Stores at two campuses included 20 copies of Engels's *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* in their orders.

*Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, a selection of talks given in the last two years of his life, follows the *Manifesto* in copies ordered to date; one campus alone asked for 100 copies. Various other titles by Malcolm X are also part of classroom adoptions every semester, including *Malcolm X Speaks*, with some 80 copies ordered.

The selection of books for class adoption, however, is as wide as the range of titles Pathfinder publishes and distributes. Titles chosen by professors this fall include Thomas Sankara's *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*; *Fidel Castro Speeches, 1975-80*; *Genocide Against the Indians* by George Novack; and *Problems of Everyday Life* by Leon Trotsky. Two other titles frequently adopted are *Blacks in America's Wars* by Robert Mullen, and *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*.

Orders have also been received for George Novack's *Origins of Materialism*, and *Che Guevara Speaks*.

"I have been saving up some money to get some books under your special prisoner discount program," wrote an inmate from the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, New York, as he sent for Daniel Guerin's *Fascism and Big Business*, *Lenin's Final Fight* by V.I. Lenin, the recently reissued pamphlet *Marxism and Terrorism* by Leon Trotsky, and other titles adding up to a \$60 order.

Similar letters have arrived in the Pathfinder office from workers and youth behind bars in Amarillo, Texas; Pine City, New York; Calipatria, California; and other prisons across the United States. Taking advantage of the special 50 percent discount Pathfinder offers them, many inmates have prison authorities deduct the cost of the books from their accounts. Others get friends and relatives to buy the books for them, and some request that the library in their prison purchase titles.

Among the titles ordered by prisoners or prison libraries are: George Novack's *The Long View of History*; *What Is to Be Done*, *Left-Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder*, and *The Right of Nations to Self-Determination*, all by Lenin; and many more. Books by Malcolm X, Ernesto Che Guevara, and Trotsky are also popular.

Pathfinder counts on contributions to help cover the cost of these orders, which constitute priceless bridges to the outside world for those behind bars. Funds can be sent to "Pathfinder Books for Prisoners," 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

# New witnesses for Abu-Jamal testify to police frame-up

BY PETE SEIDMAN

PHILADELPHIA — "For Mumia... Best Comes Last." That's how the August 12 front-page headline on the Philadelphia *Daily News* summarized the final days of Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal for a new trial.

Abu-Jamal is a well-known Black activist who has spent the last 13 years on death row for the 1981 shooting of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The shooting allegedly took place after Abu-Jamal, who was working as a cab driver, discovered Faulkner beating Abu-Jamal's brother, William Cook.

William Singletary was one of the final witnesses presented by Abu-Jamal's attorneys. Singletary, the owner and manager of a Sunoco gas station, told the court he had been at the scene of the shooting to visit a nightclub. The *Philadelphia Daily News* gave this account of his testimony:

"Singletary said he heard the officer arguing with Cook and using 'a lot of obscenities.' In response to Faulkner's approach, Singletary said, a passenger got out of the car and said to Cook, 'We don't have to take that, Billy.'

"Singletary said he heard one popping sound before he saw the passenger shoot the officer....

"The shooter, described as a tall man with dreadlocks, tossed the gun to the side of the Volkswagen and ran east...as both Abu-Jamal and Singletary came on the scene."

## Cops tore up statements

Singletary, the *Daily News* reported, "said he drove to the Police Administration Building to give a witness statement minutes after the 4 a.m. shooting, but police officials either 'tore up' or 'balled up and threw in the trash' several statements he wrote of what had occurred.

"A 'Detective Green,' he said, told him he could not leave until he wrote what police wanted. 'He told me to write what he wanted me to write [or] they would take me in the elevator and beat me up,' he said.

"Finally, Singletary said, the fourth statement that he wrote was 'dictated' by the detective at about 9 a.m."

Singletary charged that "after he complained about police treatment, cops with guns drawn began to harass him at his shop, breaking windows and hassling his tow-truck drivers," the paper added. He had to go out of business in February and he moved out of the state the following summer.

Singletary's account of events seemed to jibe with that of another defense witness, Arnold Howard, who testified August 9. Howard reported that police took him in — handcuffed and still in his "drawers" — the night of the shooting. They told him they had found his driver's license at the scene of the crime. Howard explained that he had lent the license to Kenneth Freeman, a partner of William Cook at the time and now deceased.

The cops finally released Howard when he was able to prove with a time- and date-stamped grocery store receipt that he could not have been present at the shooting. Prosecutors never told the defense during the 1982 trial that they had brought in someone other than Abu-Jamal as possibly also being involved in the shooting.

A third witness, William Harmon, testified August 10 after Judge Albert Sabo overruled defense objections. Harmon, who is serving a 33-month term on drug-related charges, told the court he was working as a pimp the night Faulkner was shot. He said he saw two different men, one in dreadlocks, who each shot the officer and then escaped in a red car. He said



South African youth march to the U.S. embassy in Pretoria July 26 protesting the scheduled execution of Black activist Mumia Abu-Jamal in Pennsylvania.

he never came forward before because he had promised his mother he wouldn't get involved. But after learning of Abu-Jamal's scheduled August 17 execution, he thought, "Uh-oh, this can't be done."

He says fellow inmates advised him that since his mother now was dead, "If you can help the brother, help him." Assistant District Attorney Arlene Fisk attempted to discredit Harmon, pointing out his long criminal record. In response, defense attorney Leonard Weinglass noted that Harmon had nothing to gain by his testimony. In fact, authorities could "make the rest of your stay in prison miserable," he said.

## Sabo move backfires

The defense had objected to Harmon being called on the grounds it did "not want to put on an unprepared, unconfirmed witness."

Harmon had only come to its attention 10 days before when he wrote from Mercer County Prison in western Pennsylvania. Weinglass asked for more time to interview him. "Well, let's just see what he has to say," Sabo ruled.

After a few days of prosecution testimony, the court will adjourn until September 11, when each side will present its final arguments.

Throughout the hearing, Sabo's biased conduct has only confirmed Mumia Abu-Jamal's charges that he did not receive a fair trial.

On August 9 the judge insisted on correcting a statement by attorney Weinglass on the *Larry King Live* show the previous night. "I told you at the outset, Mr. Weinglass, that this little old judge in this little old courtroom will not buckle under pressure, national or international," Sabo declared. Two days later, Sabo cited Weinglass with contempt and fined him \$1,000 for not returning some autopsy pictures as quickly as demanded.

Sabo's conduct provoked yet another editorial in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* August 13. Titled, "L'affaire Mumia — In Court, Judge Sabo is his own worst enemy," the big-business daily concluded, "The proceedings last week were to determine whether there is sufficient reason to have a new trial....

"They produced little compelling evidence on that count except the behavior of Judge Sabo himself, the man who was supposed to ensure that justice was done."

# Thousands demand new trial for Black activist

Continued from front page

Mexico governor Toney Anaya, actor Ed Asner, writer Alice Walker, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Jesse Jackson, and movie producer Oliver Stone. Some of the groups sponsoring the action were the American Friends Service Committee; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees District Council 37 in New York City; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

## Mandela sends message of support

Dennis Mumble brought greetings from the African National Congress of South Africa. "I bring words of solidarity, of encouragement, of hope," he said. "As surely as the death penalty was finally outlawed in South Africa, so shall it be put to

sleep in the rest of the world."

Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa and of the ANC, sent a letter to Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge. "On humanitarian grounds I urge you to use your power as Governor of the State of Pennsylvania to commute the death sentence imposed upon Mumia Abu-Jamal," Mandela wrote. "The Constitutional Court of South Africa has recently declared that the death penalty is inconsistent with the right to life, the right to dignity and the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment as enshrined in the Bill of Fundamental Rights in the South African Constitution."

"I was in Cuba when I heard about the stay," said Safiya Bukhari, co-chair of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition in New York. "In Cuba the people are behind us 100 percent," she continued.

Leaders among established civil rights groups have begun to add their weight to demand a new trial for Abu-Jamal. "Injustice brings me here," said Rev. Randal Osburn, national administrator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. SCLC issued a "solidarity statement in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal" demanding "that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court remove Judge Sabo from Abu-Jamal's case and that he be granted a new trial."

## Movement growing for new trial

Thousands of youth have been drawn to the fight for justice for Abu-Jamal and the hundreds who turned out in Philadelphia added a militant spirit to the action. A rap group of young Blacks who called themselves "Nam" performed skits during the march to the mall. "We're not just a rap group, we're political activists," said Jeremiah Muhsin, 21. "We call Philadelphia 'Killadelphia' because of the unjust murders by cops that occur in this city. We saw what happened with MOVE."

On May 13, 1985, Philadelphia police dropped a bomb on a row house where members of the Black group MOVE resided. Eleven people were killed, including four children, and 61 homes burned down in the murderous assault.

Many youth active in struggles against cop violence made their way to the march. Pedro Pagan, 22, and Jermaine Harris, 16, were part a group of young activists from Paterson, New Jersey, who participated in the demonstration.

The two were members of "We, the Youth," which was formed out of a struggle to win justice for Lawrence Myers. Myers died in February after being shot in the head by a Paterson cop. "I want to learn, to find out what is going on, and take it back home," said Harris, who was on the basketball team with Myers at Kennedy High School.

Several auto workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 980 at the Ford plant in Metuchen, New Jersey,

came on the two buses organized from New Brunswick.

"It's important for everyone at this rally to remember that pressure has to continue as it has today," said Bud Haithcoat, who has worked at the Ford plant for the past 25 years. Haithcoat said he plans to spread the word about Abu-Jamal's case and this demonstration throughout the plant when he returns to work.

Latinos United for Mumia Abu-Jamal brought three buses from Washington Heights in New York City. "Mumia Querido, el pueblo está contigo!" (Dear Mumia, the people are with you) they chanted during the march.

Silvio, a member of the Dominican Workers Party and a participant in the coalition, said, "Mumia Abu-Jamal is a brother of the Latin community. His struggle is our struggle. We are opposed to the death penalty, which is a racist law."

In Vancouver, British Columbia, 200 people rallied August 10 to oppose the execution of Abu-Jamal, while in Auckland, New Zealand, 40 people marched to the U.S. consulate in support of his case.

The National Union of Journalists organized a meeting in London August 10 to demand justice for Abu-Jamal. NUJ deputy general secretary Jacob Ecclestone reported that his union made Abu-Jamal an honorary member, the only time this has been done in the group's history.

The cops' countercampaign against Abu-Jamal continues, however. Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia district attorney, wrote a guest editorial for the August 13 *New York Times* castigating Abu-Jamal's supporters for organizing a "well-financed propaganda machine bent on perverting justice" and trying "to turn a murderer into a martyr."

Glova Scott, member of United Transportation Union in Philadelphia, and Brian Williams, member of United Food and Commercial Workers union in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

## 'Militant' to send reporting team to China; funds needed for trip

BY PAUL MAILHOT

More than 30,000 people are heading to Beijing to participate in discussions and debates on the situation facing women in the world today and the fight to advance women's rights. The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women will take place September 4-15 with government representatives from throughout the world attending. Tens of thousands of others will participate in the Forum on Women for members of non-governmental organizations to be held August 30-September 8 in Huairou, some 30 miles north of Beijing.

The impact of depression conditions on women's rights to employment, education, and health care; access to birth control and legal abortion; marriage and divorce laws; and legal protections for

women will be among the topics under debate. Some 5,000 women from China are expected to participate in the various meetings.

The *Militant* will report first-hand on the debates and discussions that unfold in China. Correspondents Laura Garza and Maggie Trowe will cover the conferences in Beijing and Huairou. The cost of sending two reporters there will be approximately \$10,000. The *Militant* is appealing to its readers and supporters to give a generous contribution to our special travel fund, which makes international reporting trips, such as the one to China, possible.

Please make checks out to the *Militant*, earmarked for the China reporting trip, and send them to: *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY, 10014.

# ‘Cuba’s sovereignty is not negotiable’

## President Fidel Castro speaks at 42nd anniversary of attack on Moncada

The following speech was given by Cuban president Fidel Castro at the main ceremony marking the 42nd anniversary of the attack on the Moncada garrison. This celebration of the opening battle of the Cuban revolution was held at Guantánamo’s Mariana Grajales Revolution Square on July 26, 1995. The following text in English appeared in the August 9 issue of the weekly *Granma International*. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

Family Members of the Moncada Combatants;

Distinguished Guests;

People of Guantánamo;

Compatriots:

It gives me much pleasure to be with you on the 42nd anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison.

Guantánamo received the honor of being the site of this anniversary event not only in recognition of its outstanding work on many fronts, but especially because of the dignified and efficient manner in which its people confronted the series of natural disasters that affected this province.

By chance we are also celebrating in Guantánamo the centenary anniversary of Martí’s and Gómez’s landing in Playitas, and that of Maceo, with Crombet and other patriots in Duaba.<sup>1</sup> This year we have also commemorated the centennial of José Martí’s death in combat in Dos Ríos.

This moment evokes many emotions and memories. However, the principal one to bear in mind is that our struggle for independence was initiated 127 years ago, that is to say, our battles for sovereignty, liberty, justice and the dignity of our small but patriotic and heroic nation. Cuba lies at the very gates of a powerful and expansionist nation which has never ceased to extend its frontiers, first at the expense of the indigenous peoples, who occupied a great part of the United States’ current territory and who were virtually exterminated; and then at the expense of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. Few countries in the world have had to face a more colossal challenge and risk than that met by Cuba, the ripe apple that by its own weight would have to fall into the hands of the growing empire.

Even then there were people who thought that the task was an impossible one, but there were also others who have never resigned themselves to the idea of renouncing their independence, their culture, and their national identity. Thanks to those outstanding precursors, today we are speaking in Spanish here, and not in English.

### Efforts of many generations

The efforts and sacrifices of entire generations of Cubans did not succeed in making their revolutionary dreams of justice and full independence a reality. However, they sowed the seeds and prepared the ground. We could not continue being a foreign power’s colony, we could not continue to be the United States’ obedient servants, we could not continue to be a country of landless *campesinos* [peasants], of children without schools, of sick people without doctors. A country of exploited workers, of blacks without rights, women who faced discrimination, young people without any future, a workforce without employment, of humiliated citizens; a country whose laws were daily mocked, where corruption was rampant, and whose national anthem and flag lacked any meaning. Forced evictions, abhorrent crimes — this was the caricature of a republic that the U.S. intervention made of our nation.

Any person plundering public funds, corrupt politicians, or those responsible for atrocious crimes of repression had a safe haven in the United States, especially if they acted in the name of that country’s economic interests or anticommunist ide-



Half a million people marched in Havana August 5 in support of the revolution and for an end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

ology.

All this occurred and has continued to occur in recent years in numerous countries in our hemisphere. Who initiated the Latin American repressive forces into crime, torture, mass disappearances, death squads, clandestine cemeteries, and other abhorrent practices?

The July 26 armed uprising in 1953 was carried out against everything that happened in Cuba under Batista, that consummate servant of U.S. interests and reactionary ideology.

The Revolution, which was launched with the attack on the Moncada and was continued in prison, with the *Granma* landing, the Sierra Maestra, the underground struggles, in the cities, mountains and plains, led us to the victory of January 1, 1959. We were in charge of our own future for the first time in history.

The Moncada program was rigorously fulfilled within a relatively short space of time. Secular privileges and inequalities were swept away. It was not a socialist program, but it contained the basic elements for future advances in that direction. If we, the principal leaders, had socialist ideas and convictions, or more precisely, Marxist-Leninist ideas, as we have said many times, the Cuban Revolution was not as yet a socialist one.

However, this process was rapidly accelerated as a consequence of the aggressive policy adopted by the U.S. government. The first Agrarian Reform Law had barely been approved in May 1959 when that country’s administration decided to liquidate the Revolution by employing mercenary forces in a similar style to that used against the government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954, when he also decided to carry out an agrarian reform. Prior to this point, the U.S. government had applied heavy economic aggression against our country. Via a process of U.S. government measures and Cuban responses, within a brief period of time the majority of U.S. companies in Cuba were nationalized. These measures were followed by the nationalization of the principal private Cuban companies, whose proprietors, as a general rule, made common cause with U.S. policy.

### Socialist character of the revolution

In this way, the day after the treacherous bombing of our air bases, and on the eve of the April 16, 1961, Bay of Pigs invasion, in front of tens of thousands of armed militia members, the socialist char-

acter of the Revolution was proclaimed. In the Sierra Maestra we fought for the Moncada program; in the Bay of Pigs battle our heroic people shed their blood for socialism, in full view of a powerful U.S. naval squadron a few miles off our coasts, ready to intervene.

The historic circumstances in which our struggle took place demonstrate that it could not be described as revolutionary if it had not been an anti-imperialist and, moreover, socialist struggle. Only socialism was able to so closely unite the great popular masses to carry out the great moral, political, economic and social battle which lay ahead of us, as well as preparing us to act in the military terrain if the country was invaded. It was essential to win total justice, as Martí said to Juan Gualberto Gómez. Only socialism as a political, economic and social regime could provide total justice. [Applause]

The world in which this long struggle has been waged for over 36 years — this is not the moment to detail its extraordinary history — was not designed by us; it was already shaped on January 1, 1959. But nobody should have the slightest doubt that whether the USSR and the socialist bloc had existed or not, we would have attacked the Moncada Garrison, we would have landed in the *Granma*, we would have achieved the January 1 Revolution, and we would have fought at the Bay of Pigs.

When Maceo led the Baraguá protest, when Martí landed in Playitas, when the *mambi* independence fighters carried out their glorious westward march, when Cuba fought alone against 300,000 Spanish soldiers, the USSR and the socialist camp did not exist. We didn’t even have any contact or relations with those countries; that only occurred after our victory.

### Defense of social conquests

The historical coincidence of the emergence of the Cuban Revolution and the existence of the USSR and the socialist camp was a chance event, albeit an extraordinarily useful one when our little country was mercilessly blockaded in the economic field, and militarily harassed and threatened by the United States. For anyone who still harbors the slightest doubt over what I have just said, one undeniable fact is sufficient. When the socialist camp and the USSR disappeared, our people, in spite of abruptly losing 70 percent of their imported goods and all military cooperation, didn’t hesitate for a second, but went

ahead to defend, at all cost, their independence, their exceptional social conquests, their glorious history, their ideals, their revolution and the fruit of the blood shed by their children within and outside Cuba. [Applause]

Many people who were incapable of perceiving the courage of this people believed that the Revolution would collapse in a matter of days or weeks, and here we are not only resisting, but little by little once more beginning to gain ground. [Applause]

### Compatriots:

Let us not forget, even for a second, the effort and sacrifice that special period has signified for our people. It is also very hard and difficult for the Revolution to continue to wage the struggle while having to daily attend to the problems and needs of 11 million people. How to ensure that no child goes without milk, that the sick do not lack the medical care they need, that there are minimum levels of food, electricity, water, domestic fuel, transportation, and the many other products and services required by the population!

Dealing with the problems of a guerrilla army in the mountains is not the same as attending to the needs of an entire nation while huge efforts are being made by our enemies to maintain the blockade and place obstacles in the way of everything.

But what we are doing today has never been in vain, nor will it ever be.

It is a historically unprecedented feat that not one single school, hospital, senior citizens’ home, or children’s day-care center has closed.

The infant mortality rate is now lower than at the beginning of special period, and there are many more doctors; the country’s security and defense capacities have been strengthened; advances have been made in scientific research, and in the cultural and sports fields; our agricultural and industrial sectors are functioning; orderly work is going ahead in all areas and some of the fruits of this are already becoming apparent. Oil, nickel, electricity, steel, and cement production are on the increase, as well as root and garden vegetables and other items. The gross domestic product saw a two percent increase in the first six months of 1995, a modest figure, but worth noting. It would have been higher without decreased production in the sugarcane industry, where special efforts are now being made which cannot fail to produce positive results in the near future.

Within the space of less than a year, the excess of liquid cash circulating among the population was reduced by almost 2.7 million pesos. The peso is regaining value: one year ago, the street exchange value was over 130 pesos to the dollar; today it stands at barely 35. So progress is being made in organizing the country’s internal finances. But this requires an increasingly strict fulfillment of the policy that has been outlined, which as yet has not been fully implemented, and at no time should we fall into the temptation of putting new pesos into circulation. As the excess of surplus cash in circulation diminishes, the task of further reducing it becomes more difficult, although this is still essential. The benefits can be seen in an increased interest in work and the greater need to earn a wage.

Tax collection must be carried out more rigorously.

However, the lack of hard currency to pay for required imports constitutes a serious problem for our economy. This is the principal obstacle confronting us today. Some financing is being made available at elevated costs. On occasions, a price increase in one single item, such as fuel, foodstuffs, or powdered milk leads to a considerable deficit. This is a reality to take into account.

Recently, a series of measures have been implemented, in line with a set of changes and points of view within the economic sphere.

Some of these measures are wide-reaching and radical, with a view to improving the work being carried out in this

<sup>1</sup> José Martí, Máximo Gómez, Antonio Maceo, and Flor Crombet were leaders of the war for Cuba’s independence from Spain in the late 1800s.

sphere, particularly in order to adapt our economy to the realities of today's world. Other countries such as China and Vietnam have been doing this for some time, but does this maybe signify the renunciation of our socialist ideals and our Marxist-Leninist convictions? Quite the contrary.

As true Marxist-Leninists we have to take this course of action, with all the courage and realism demanded by the circumstances. However, this does not imply, as some people seem to think, a return to capitalism, and much less a crazy and unchecked rush in that direction. The incredible disasters that have taken place in the countries of the former Soviet Union, in spite of its vast resources in energy and raw materials, as well as foreign aid, in contrast to the impressive successes in China and Vietnam, are a clear indication of what should and should not be done if we wish to save the Revolution and socialism. [Applause]

And this is discounting the fact that none of those countries are being blockaded by the United States. Cuba, on the other hand, is blockaded to the hilt, with rage and fury. The whole economic arsenal of the hegemonic empire is currently focused on us. For this reason only our socialism, our serenity, and the level-headedness with which we have tackled our problems have made the miracle of our resistance possible.

#### Capitalism brings damaging effects

The unquestionable capitalist elements introduced into our country have been accompanied by the damaging and alienating effects of that system. The phenomenon of bribery and corruption, unheard of during the 30 years of trade with the Soviet Union, can be appreciated in an incipient and growing form in our economic relations with capitalism.

It should be said, in all fairness, that we have relations with many responsible capitalists, who behave in an appropriate manner; others are using the universal capitalist practices of bribery and corruption, in a discreet or blatant manner.

There are also people who have let themselves be carried away by an avidity for hard currency, to the point of selling their souls.

Large-scale tourism, the decriminalization of the possession of hard currency, the institutions trading in that currency, measures which were unavoidable, have their inevitable cost.

The style and behavior of some people reveal the pleasure they take in the entrepreneurial role. Others want to set up their own enterprises or small businesses at any cost to operate in hard currency in their work centers or institutions, more often than not with a view to misspending it, violating the carefully established norms in this area. The Party and the government will have to wage a colossal battle against such tendencies before they develop into a cancer devouring our ethics and revolutionary spirit. We have to take an inexorable stance against those persons who violate our most sacred principles. The blood of so many Cubans was not shed to let in such shameful conduct at the nation's most critical moment. [Applause]

The battle we have to fight is a hard one, but the firm determination in our souls must be harder.

#### Two strategies against revolution

The enemy's undertaking to destroy us is without respite. There are two strategies: one coming from the extreme right elements in U.S. politics who dream of strangling us with an even tighter blockade, if that were possible, and of sweeping us off the face of the earth by whatever means necessary. They are the ones who promote legislation such as the Helms-Burton bill, well-known by our people who have examined it closely, and other draconian measures. They are the ones who would like to destroy us from outside.

The other strategy is championed by those who want to penetrate our nation, to weaken us, to create all kinds of counter-revolutionary organizations and to destabi-

lize the country regardless of the consequences. They have developed a whole theory and a program designed to this end. These persons want to exert their influence through wide-ranging interchanges with diverse sectors they believe they can influence, by granting generous scholarships, by dazzling us with their million-dollar institutions, their technology, their social research centers. They do not allow U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba, to get to know the island and to have a holiday here, but they are prepared to send sociologists, philosophers, historians, Cuba specialists, English professors, and other academics to our universities to "enlighten" us. These people yes, but the last thing in the world they will do is to send professors of cybernetics, computer science, or spheres of technology which have no relation to ideology and who could be of some use to the country. That is to say, the so-called "track two" of the Torricelli Act. Those are the ones who would like to destroy us from within.

There are many courageous and noble U.S. citizens in all spheres, businesspeople included, who are not involved in either of these two strategies.

Meanwhile, within U.S. territory — and this is very serious — and without any attempt at discretion, acts of terrorism against the Cuban population and in vital areas of the economy are being actively planned and set in operation, including, once again, frenetically planned attempts on the lives of the Revolution's leaders. The main center for such activities is the so-called Cuban American National Foundation. It is absolutely inconceivable that the CIA and FBI are not aware of such plans, given that presumably they have infiltrated those organizations, many of whose members have had relations with them.

Now that our country has been opened up to tourism and there is a possibility of travel between Cuba and the United States, the execution of such plans is facilitated, and the introduction of a variety of channels to achieve such ends makes them more feasible.

Our security corps is on the alert in the context of such activities, and is working to prevent their occurrence.

These words are not spoken without proof. We are giving a timely warning and hope that no one will later regret the rigor with which the revolutionary laws sanction these crimes, nor try to appeal to the Revolution's generosity. [Shouts and applause]

To this can be added the emission of more than one thousand hours per week of radio broadcasts inciting sabotage, actions against the economy, and the assassination of political leaders.

It is absolutely shameful that, in the wake of the brutal crime that took place in Oklahoma, acts of terrorism against Cuba are being organized and put into action from the United States.



Militant/Laura Garza  
Cuban worker at factory in Villa Clara. Women make up 62 percent of the technical workforce, said Castro, highlighting their contributions to the Cuban revolution.

What I have said up to this point gives you some idea of how arduous our struggle is and will be. You should also take into account that the United States is in its electoral process and the extreme right elements, which now have majority control in Congress, are aspiring not only to erase the social measures dating back to the Roosevelt era, but also to form the next U.S. government, with all the consequences this could have for the world as a whole.

#### Compatriots:

We have to be prepared for all these possibilities. The blockade conditions under which we are obliged to resist and advance demand a superhuman effort, an immutable steadfastness and absolute integrity on the part of everyone.

In normal times, when resources were fully available and during a period of substantial egalitarianism, many people grew accustomed to receiving everything and contributing very little. A critical analysis will remind us of inflated rosters in the areas of production and services, absenteeism under any pretext, the four or five hours' working day in several agricultural enterprises, the excess expenditure in fuel and raw materials, and the misuse of agricultural machinery and transportation. We cannot permit any of these luxuries today.

In the recent period, great effort has gone into demanding much more of the Party and state cadres. There have been widespread replacements, and a great commitment has been shown by everyone; however, we can still observe errors, weaknesses, irresponsibility, and incompetence.

#### Rebirth of revolutionary spirit

As at no other time in our history, today we demand of our workers and our cadres the maximum of patriotism, moral values, and dignity. Alongside cases and examples that are disheartening, are a growing number of men and women who demon-

strate a behavior worthy of the times in which we live. A rebirth of revolutionary spirit is apparent throughout the country. It is moving to observe men and women working in the fields or factories in tennis shoes or even barefoot. This should serve as an example to all those who are comfortably off or who do not have enough confidence in the virtues of their people.

Our compatriots' exceptional humanity and political qualities were made evident during our latest elections, a clear message to the world of what Cuba is and a solid confirmation of how a people with a high cultural level and a solid political awareness acted. Our enemies had constructed grand illusions of seeing the Revolution weakened and debilitated by the harsh realities of special period.

These elections were so distinctive in terms of what happens almost everywhere else! And so distinct from what happens in the United States! Even though the option to vote or not is absolutely open, there was a turnout of 97.1 percent. Even assuming there was not one single voting error and that no blank ballot was the result of disagreement with the choice of candidate and that both were expressions of discontent or opposition, void or spoiled ballots totaled only 11.2 percent, barely 0.6 percent more than in 1992. Clearly, a visible deterioration or a relative manifestation of discouragement was to be expected, given the harsh conditions which have befallen our thousand times heroic people, but this did not happen. Another Bay of Pigs moral victory over those who are trying to bring us to our knees! [Applause]

#### People of Guantánamo:

I have said very little about you and as I don't want to talk too extensively, I have to be brief. The statistics reflecting Guantánamo province's work would be interminable. I am going to give no more than two examples, just to offer the United States an example of social development.

Continued on Page 10

#### More on the Cuban revolution

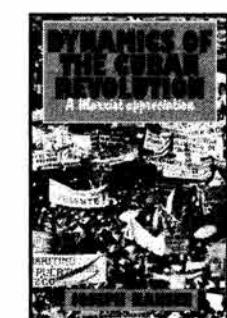
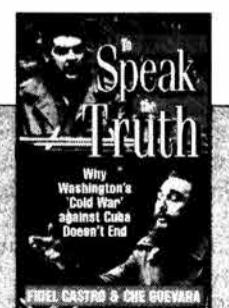
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# Youth support the struggle to free Abu-Jamal

BY BICK SATTER

PHILADELPHIA — Young Socialists from New York, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland converged here August 12 to take part in a demonstration with thousands of fighting youth, workers, and others in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The New York Young Socialists issued a joint statement with the Socialist Workers Party demanding a new trial for Abu-Jamal and calling for the abolition of the death penalty. The Young Socialists showed their support of the struggle to free Abu-Jamal by carrying YS banners during the march with the same demands. They were joined by another banner in the name of "supporters of the Young Socialists," from Delaware.

A lot of the youth here were trying to understand the nature of the U.S. government and why such injustices as the Abu-Jamal case are happening in the United States and other parts the world. Many were open to communist ideas. More than 30 people from the northeast and other parts of the country signed up for more information about the Young Socialists.

YS members and other participants in the recent Cuba Lives International Youth Festival talked up their experiences in Cuba with the many youth who turned out for the demonstration. They were able to

report on the widespread knowledge of the Abu-Jamal case among the delegations from Europe and also among a layer of Cuban youth.

They were also able to report that the festival workshop in Villa Clara province, which discussed the topic "Democracy and Participation," passed a resolution condemning the scheduled execution of Abu-Jamal. Many young people at the Philadelphia protest signed up to get a full reportback on the Cuba Lives festival.

The Young Socialists were also able to introduce many of young fighters to the Mark Curtis case. "I found it easy to talk about the case at this demonstration, because the Mumia Abu-Jamal case has opened the eyes of many of the people here about the nature of the cops and the courts. People instantly understood the frame-up of Mark Curtis," said Jack Willey, a member of the Manhattan Young Socialists. Dozens of people signed up for more information about the Curtis case.

As schools begin to open up in the fall, many young people will be planning to make the Abu-Jamal case more known among students and will be trying to keep the pressure on for a new trial.

The Young Socialists will take a part in helping to lead this effort. In New York, the Manhattan Young Socialists are part of



Militant/Margrethe Siem

A contingent of the Young Socialists join the march of thousands of other youth and workers in Philadelphia August 12 demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

a Youth Outreach Committee on Mumia Abu-Jamal. The Pittsburgh Young Socialists are also active in a defense coalition in their city. In Cleveland, the Young Socialists are working with young people who

came to the demonstration and others who want to build a coalition there.

Brock Satter is a member of the Manhattan Young Socialists.

## Northeast Cuba conference backs October action

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — Some 60 people representing 25 organizations attended a northeast regional meeting of affiliates of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) and other groups involved in defense of Cuba August 13. The conference, which took place at Casa de las Americas, focused on building a regional demonstration here in October against U.S. policy toward Cuba and demanding an end to Washington's embargo of that country.

The National Network, a coalition of local and national groups that organizes activities in opposition to U.S. policy on Cuba, had earlier called for regional demonstrations in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco on October 14.

Leslie Cagan of the Cuba Information Project, who is one of the four national coordinators of the NNOC, reported that a coalition of New York City groups voted in early July to change the date for the action here to October 21.

Cagan said the reason for the change is that U.S. president Bill Clinton is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly October 22, on the occasion of the United Nations's 50th anniversary. Organizing a march that weekend, Cagan said, will help focus the fire of the protest on the U.S. government. A representative of the Cuban government may also address the UN General Assembly at that time, she stated. The New York Spanish-language daily *El Diario/La Prensa* reported August 15 that Cuban president Fidel Castro is scheduled to speak at the UN on October 21.

ber 22.

The demonstration will demand an end to the economic blockade of Cuba, normalizing relations between the two countries, lifting the U.S. travel ban to the Caribbean island, and respect for Cuba's self-determination.

Participants at the regional meeting agreed to the October 21 date. Tim Craine of the Greater Hartford Cuba Coalition said that national coordination with NNOC affiliates in other regions will be necessary to ensure that the demonstration here and actions in other cities are all successful. The Network will review the October actions at a national meeting scheduled for Miami September 9-10.

Several activists who had just returned from the Cuba Lives international youth festival, which concluded in Havana August 7, said reportbacks from their trip will help build the October action.

Brian Taylor and Nicole Manning from Washington, D.C., were two of the youth who attended the festival and participated in the regional NNOC meeting here. They reported that the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition has set up a speakers bureau to organize such engagements at campuses, churches, community centers, union halls, and workplaces. "We'll tell the truth about the Cuban revolution and help recruit youth and others to actively build the October actions," Taylor said.

Many of the nearly 300 participants in the Cuba Lives festival from the United States traveled with credentials as journalists from newspapers, campus and com-

munity press, or radio and TV stations. The youth from Washington, D.C. and others at the meeting said that they'll be using their articles on the trip to publicize October 21.

Sharon Ayling of the New York-based International Peace for Cuba Appeal and Maceo Dixon of the July 26 Coalition in Boston reported that many participants at the August 12 demonstration in Philadelphia demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal were interested in the October action on Cuba. Activists from the Philadelphia Cuba Support Coalition set up a table at the August 12 action. They signed up two dozen youth who expressed interest in

organizing reports on the Cuba Lives festival and on the October march in their schools.

Members of the Committees of Correspondence and others at the meeting said that activists should also orient to businessmen and elected officials opposed to the embargo in seeking support and funding for the demonstration.

Organizers will produce a bilingual flyer and poster to publicize the action.

To endorse the demonstration or to get more information and publicity materials contact the NNOC, c/o Cuba Information Project, 198 Broadway Suite 800, New York, NY 10038. Tel: (212) 227-3422.

## Washington, D.C., meeting celebrates Cuban revolution

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 100 people attended a July 26 celebration at the Washington Peace Center here marking the 42nd anniversary of the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. The event was sponsored by the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition.

Hugo Yedra, a representative of the Cuban Interests Section, was the featured speaker. He reviewed the events of July 26, 1953, when Cuban revolutionaries launched an attack on the Moncada army garrison of the Batista dictatorship.

"Today we hear reactionary voices backing the Helms-Burton bill, which will make the U.S. criminal blockade even harder," Yedra said. "But we know we can always count on the support of the U.S. people."

Sarah Park, a graduate of Sidwell Friends High School who recently returned from a trip to Cuba with the Freedom to Travel Campaign, said she knew nothing about Cuba when she first attended a meeting of the Young Socialists club at her school. She said when she found out it was illegal to travel to Cuba and that the U.S. government had a 34-year-old embargo against that country, it made no sense.

"It is in our Constitution that we have the right to travel where we want," Park told the audience. "I couldn't understand why we learned so little about Cuba in school when it was just 90 miles away."

In comparing her view of Cuba with Mexico, where she had previously spent six weeks, Park noted, "In Cuba everyone was educated and they were hopeful the future would get better. The Cubans had respect for themselves and confidence they would get through things, and were working together."

Adjoa Aiyetoro, executive director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, pledged her group's continued work against the embargo.

Also speaking was Brian Taylor, a 21-year-old airline worker, and one of those participating in the August 1-7 Cuba Lives International Youth Festival. He introduced the four other participants from this area who were in attendance. One young woman decided on the spot to join the delegation traveling to the festival.

A dinner and a raffle at the event raised more than \$300 for the youth delegation.

## Fidel Castro speaks at Guantánamo rally

Continued from Page 9

[Applause] Guantánamo, Cuba's poorest province, with a doctor for every 271 inhabitants, has more doctors per capita than the United States [applause], and with an infant mortality rate of 9.2 percent, it has less infant mortality than that country's capital. [Applause]

I warmly congratulate you for having gained the position of being the site of the main celebrations for July 26. [Applause]

To the women of Cuba, to whom this commemoration is dedicated, to speak of you I would have to begin this speech again. I just wonder if there is any part of the world where 62 percent of the technical workforce is made up of women [Applause] and if what we have achieved up until now would have been possible without you. [Shouts of "No!" and applause]

I congratulate you equally for the selflessness and sacrifice which have made you worthy of this just honor! [Applause]

Soldiers of the heroic Border Brigade, I

congratulate you for having received the Major General José Maceo combat glory flag! [Applause] You have written an indelible page of courage in the history of the Revolution and have given a supreme example of generosity in the face of danger and in saving the lives of people who had renounced their nation. [Shouts and applause]

I equally congratulate the Party and People's Power of Guantánamo [applause], and I congratulate the people of Guantánamo. [Applause]

I ask you to excuse me for omitting many other things I could say to you, due to time considerations.

In 1995, I am also going to complete 50 years of having initiated a long and intense political and revolutionary struggle [prolonged applause] which, among other things, has allowed me the great privilege of being here with you. It is no longer necessary to make the long speeches of the early years of the Revolution.

There is only one thing which I wish to

add. The Revolution will never renounce its principles [prolonged applause]; it will never renounce the conquests which it brought to our people; it will never renounce its ideals and objectives and it will never be forced to its knees before the United States. [Applause] Our sovereignty will not be surrendered, nor is it negotiable! [Applause]

The right to construct the social, economic, and political regime chosen by our people will not be deposed in the face of anything or anyone! [Applause] The Revolution cannot be destroyed from within or from without. [Applause]

If we have to fight for a hundred years more, we will fight! [Applause] Those of us who have had the privilege of experiencing liberty, dignity and justice, will never resign ourselves to living without them. [Applause]

Socialism or death!

*Patria o muerte!* [Homeland or death!] *Venceremos!* [We will win!] [Ovation]

# 'Cuba Lives' brings int'l youth together

Continued from front page

travel to the different provinces where commissions were held over three days. The themes of the workshops included employment, young women, culture and national identity, democracy and participation, and education.

Referring to examples cited by delegates, Castro said that what capitalism offers today is best revealed by "the unemployment rates, which in some countries have tripled in just two years; or the great financial problems that can ruin a country overnight; or the fact that countries with immense natural and economic resources are on the verge of social explosions because of the daily battles between workers and the police and other repressive bodies, in Central America, South America, and elsewhere."

In Pinar del Río, where 140 delegates discussed employment, one participant explained that 25 percent of youth in Italy are unemployed, and in the south of that country the figure jumps to 33 percent.

## Bourgeois politics shifts to right

"In my country education is in a profound crisis," said Valdine Veronica de Lima, of the Union of Brazilian High School Students. "Fifteen million children have no schools. Thirty-five percent of the population is illiterate. And many working-class youth are forced to drop out of school to support their families." De Lima, speaking at the opening of the commission on education in Havana province, explained that a protest demanding funding for education had been called for August 11.

In Colombia, said Jorge Verdú Rodriguez at the same workshop, "teachers recently went on strike for two months because they were not being paid." In response to student protests, he added, the Colombian military recently attacked a demonstration at the university, injuring six students.

Jack Willey from the United States described recent demonstrations in New York and protests in Canada that forced local governments to back down from cuts in education funding.

During the workshop on young women, which took place on the Isle of Youth, Sandra Cano, a student at the University of California in Los Angeles, talked about student mobilizations against attacks on affirmative action and government attempts to deny children of immigrant workers the right to health care and education.

In his closing speech Castro referred to such examples, and pointed to "a rightward shift in politics in certain countries, a shift toward reactionary positions...in several major countries including the United States."

"There have been struggles in the United States itself," Castro said, "which, it must be said, have resulted in a series of social gains: the struggle of the Black population for their rights, a historic battle; the struggles of national minorities, the struggles of the unemployed, the struggles of the poor, women's struggle for a series of rights. All of this is clearly jeopardized today as a result of the shift to the right in U.S. politics."

The danger that ultrarightists might take governmental power is posed again in a real way in today's world, Castro said. "This is an important factor to take into account, because the world situation may worsen and U.S. imperialism may become even more aggressive and harmful."

## Cuba won't bow to imperialism

But Cuba will resist and will never again accept the kind of imperialist super-exploitation and domination by Washington that prevails throughout the continent, the Cuban president said.

"We know what it would mean for this country to fall again into the hands of the United States — with or without the Helms-Burton bill," Castro stated, referring to legislation under discussion in U.S. Congress that would tighten Washington's trade embargo against the island.

"What is inconceivable is that the Cubans would act like the slaves [thrown

to the lions] in the Roman circus who cried: 'Long live Caesar! Those who are about to die salute you!'" The Cuban people will never accept such a destiny, will never bow to imperialism, Castro stated.

"In today's world to be a revolutionary, as Che said, is the highest level of the human species," Castro added, referring to a phrase by Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Many delegates responded enthusiastically to such remarks by Castro and other Cuban leaders. "Only Cuba has gained real independence," said Kai Moos, a 19-year-old student from Germany.

"I now know that with a clear perspective, with clear ideas we can create an even bigger movement to defeat U.S. policy when we return," said Leigh-Anne Yow, a student at North Carolina State University, "who comes from the state of Jesse Helms," as she put it.

## Special period

Milton Chamorro was one of 26 youth from Ecuador who were visiting Cuba for the first time. He is part of a solidarity group at the University of Quito that goes out to the surrounding small towns to speak about Cuba and other international issues. He saved money for a year to be able to come to Cuba and his group brought along \$2,000 worth of medical supplies.

His group was typical of delegations from many countries that had sizable contingents. Dozens of delegates who came from France, Spain, Italy, the United States, and Brazil, for example, were not affiliated to any political organization but had been involved in some work in defense of Cuba.

A highlight of their experience at the festival, Chamorro said, was the chance to stay with Cuban families and live like many Cubans do. At least one day in every province, many delegates rode bicycles to the schools, factories, or other facilities where the workshops were held.

This is the common mode of transportation for most Cubans since the country lost trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet Union beginning in 1989 — what is referred to here as the "special period." Thrust abruptly into the world capitalist market, Cuba lost 70 percent of its import capacity and was forced to cut sharply its oil supplies, which now have to be paid for in hard currency.

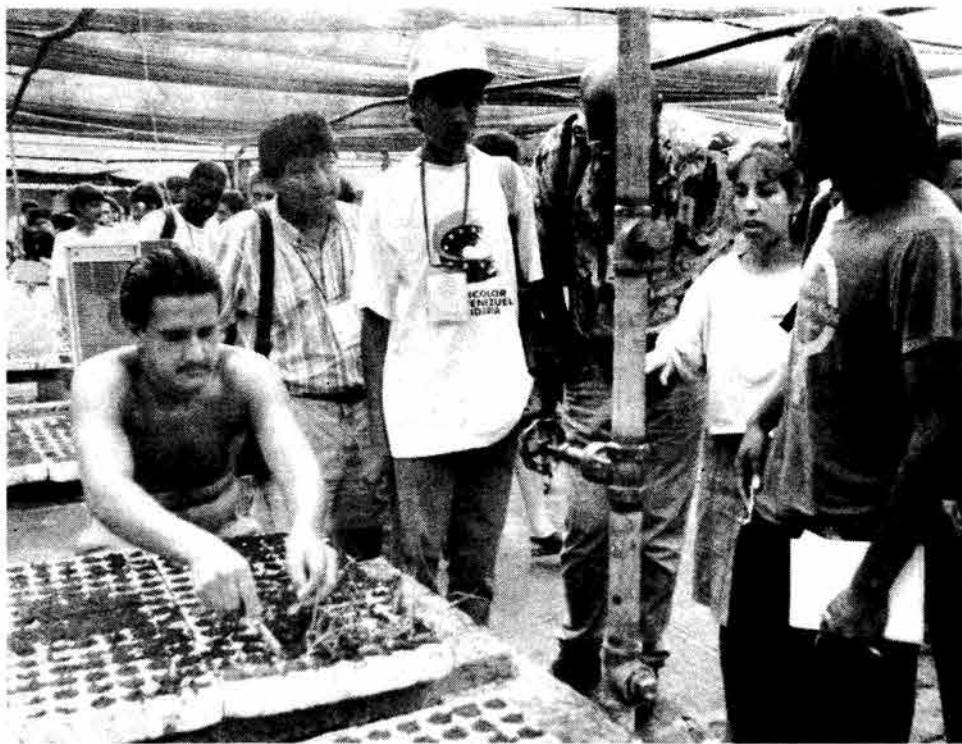
On the Isle of Youth, visitors were housed in several apartment complexes. Host families and their guest delegates quickly began exchanging experiences, sometimes in broken Spanish or sign language when no translator was available. Delegates learned a little about what life is like during the special period and with Washington's unceasing economic war.

Emilia Gómez Abilludo, a laboratory technician in a fruit juice factory, explained to her guest how the family made use of the local pig pen. You pay 10 pesos per month to keep a pig there and provide your own feed to the animal, she said. This is one of many measures taken to allow individual families to grow their own food supply even if they have no access to land.

Most delegates got a look at the ration books that guarantee all children under seven a liter of milk per day, under conditions where dairy products are in very short supply. Seeing these records they also noticed the months when a family might not have received any cooking oil, a scarce commodity in the last few years.

"The main thing is that the revolution has tried to distribute the little that we have on an equitable basis," said Caridad Valdez Rodríguez, a worker at a power plant in Santa Clara, in the province of Villa Clara, who hosted another delegate. Rodríguez said the monthly rations for basic necessities like rice and beans her family receives are barely sufficient for two weeks. But since last year, she said, when the government opened agricultural markets around the country, it's a little easier to find food, "even though the prices are too high."

"I don't know if any other country in Latin America or the world could have resisted as hard a blow as Cuba suffered,"



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Participants from the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival tour a sugar-cane seed nursery in Santa Clara, Cuba, on August 3.

Castro told the delegates in his closing speech. The conditions of the special period would have led to a major social explosion in any capitalist country. "Could Cuba have resisted without its socialist system, without its political and economic system, when this situation arose?"

## Retreat to capitalism?

The Cuban president said the government has had to introduce "elements of capitalism" in its attempt to deal with the formidable economic difficulties. Castro was referring to increased foreign investment in tourism and mining, the legalization of the use of foreign currency, and the opening of agricultural markets at unregulated prices, among other measures. These steps have re-introduced some social inequalities, he said.

"When I speak about the world we're living in today, don't forget that we are an island surrounded by capitalism on all sides," Castro said. The Cuban leader was referring to questions several delegates asked regarding the recent economic measures.

Isn't foreign investment, or the opening of dollar stores and other such steps, an unnecessary concession to imperialism? asked several delegates from Brazil at the workshop on democracy and participation in Villa Clara. Can measures like these lead gradually to the restoration of capitalism? Delegates in other workshops asked similar questions.

"We have to tell the truth," Castro said. "We initiated this course primarily because it was the only alternative we had to save the revolution and the conquests of socialism."

The Bolsheviks in the early years of the Russian revolution had to take similar measures when revolutionary movements in Germany and other countries in Europe were not victorious in the early 1920s, Castro said. If V.I. Lenin were alive today, "he would have told us: keep doing what you're doing," he stated.

"They too had to do this, they had to adopt the New Economic Policy, the famous NEP, during a certain historic period."

The main question, Castro continued, is who holds political power in such a period. "This is the key, because if the people, if the workers hold power, not the rich or the millionaires, then it is possible to implement policies in the interests of the people."

## Democracy

"But is Cuba democratic? Are there free elections when there is only one political party? Is there freedom of speech when there is only one daily newspaper?" asked Kaisa Murray from Denmark at the commission in Villa Clara.

"If democracy means participation of the people in making decisions about their lives, then we can't just talk about the right to go to the polls every four years to vote for candidates who usually must have millions of dollars to get on the ballot," Ricardo Alarcón replied during the workshop. Alarcón is the president of Cuba's National Assembly, the country's parliament.

"In order to talk about democracy you have to address the question of eliminat-

ing class exploitation, the degradation of women, racist discrimination," Alarcón said. "This is what the Cuban revolution set on the road to accomplish 36 years ago."

He pointed to the workers assemblies that involved more than three million people throughout Cuba in the last two years, where workers debated fiscal and other measures under consideration by the National Assembly before they were adopted. "This is working-class democracy," he said.

Alarcón also explained Cuba's electoral system and said that only the lack of paper during the special period has forced the cutting down of the number of daily newspapers.

Castro returned to these questions in his closing speech. Other leaders of the Communist Party and the UJC — including Abel Prieto of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, and Arleen Rodríguez Derivet, editor of *Juventud Rebelde* — and many of the 200 Cuban delegates also took them up in the course of formal and informal discussions.

Before returning to Havana from the provinces, delegates visited factories, volunteer agricultural work contingents, and sports and cultural facilities, and had impromptu meetings with workers and youth as they went along. In each province delegates joined thousands of Cubans in torch-light marches or rallies to condemn the U.S. embargo against the Caribbean country.

Dances and cultural performances were also organized every day throughout the festival.

## Solidarity actions

During the closing session in Havana, delegates adopted a final declaration and several proposals for future actions in solidarity with the Cuban revolution that came from the workshops.

The delegates decided, among other things, to organize protests to condemn the policies of Washington and other imperialist powers against Cuba, and specifically rejecting the Helms-Burton bill. The solidarity actions would also include sponsoring speaking tours of Cuban youth in other countries and one or more international work brigades to Cuba next year. Several hundred delegates left August 7 for one- or two-week brigades to do volunteer work in agriculture.

Adriana Sánchez, who spoke at the closing session representing the U.S. delegation, encouraged the organization of further visits and tours to different countries by members of the UJC and other Cuban youth organizations. She noted that many of the nearly 300 youth from the United States attending the festival were won to the idea of participating in it during the U.S. tour of Cuban youth leaders Kenia Serrano and Rogelio Polanco earlier this year. Sánchez also explained that the young people returning will throw themselves in building demonstrations in October in opposition to U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Delegates from El Salvador, France, Portugal, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe, as well as Lulu Johnson, president of the

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## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Cuba Vive!** Report of Chicago area participants in August 1-7 international youth festival in Cuba. Fri., Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

### Peoria

**The Frame-Up of Mumia Abu-Jamal:** The

**Ongoing Fight for a New Trial and the Lift-  
ing of his Death Sentence.** Speakers: Tim Gabrielson, criminal defense attorney, member of Illinois Coalition for the Abolition of the Death Penalty; Charlene Adamson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m. Room 253 Baker Hall, Bradley University, 1422 Main St. Tel: (309) 674-9441.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Reportback from Youth Festival in Cuba** Speakers: Margo Storsteen, Socialist Workers Party; Victoria Wright, participant in youth festival. Fri., Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Clinton's Anti-Smoking Campaign is an Attack on Youth.** Speaker: Joan Paltrineri, So-

# Thousands mark 1945 atom bombing of Japan

### Continued from front page

wrote to John McCone, director of the Atomic Energy Commission, that his department had "serious reservations about the release of these photographs because we have been concerned over the political impact in Japan particularly, and because of our reluctance to present the Communists with a propaganda weapon they would use against us in all parts of the world."

### Mass murder of civilians

What U.S. officials couldn't cover up about the bombings, they lied about. One of the most flagrant lies was President Harry Truman's statement on Aug. 9, 1945, the day the plutonium bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. "The world will note," he said, "that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians."

Although there was a military base in Hiroshima, most of the casualties were civilians. According to a report at one of the conferences we participated in, 65 percent of the casualties were children, women, and elderly. The true figure was even higher, as many of the men were civilians. One after another, survivors of the bombings told us the same story. So did the exhibits at the Peace Memorial Museum that we visited.

The horrible truth is that this was the intent in dropping the A-bombs, as it had been in unleashing thousands of tons of firebombs on nearly every other city of Japan. David Kruidenier, retired head of Cowles Media Co., the Des Moines-based owner of a number of Midwest newspapers and TV stations, was a navigator flying B-29 bombing raids in Japan in 1945. In an opinion piece in the August 9 Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*, he confirmed, "We had been firebombing the largest cities in order to kill the maximum number of civilians, and Hiroshima was the largest untouched available city remaining."

The aim of those dropping the A-bombs was to ignite a number of fires. As the heated air rose it drew in more air, which created gale force winds that linked the fires together, killing by incredible heat, asphyxiation, and the collapse of buildings. This effect accounted for the biggest share of casualties. With one plane carrying one A-bomb, U.S. air force officials had accomplished what had previously taken hundreds of planes and thousands of bombs. Modern nuclear weapons are even more lethal. The H-bomb tested in Bikini in 1954 was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

On the airplane flight to Japan several

of us read an article in the July 31 *New Yorker* by Murray Sayle, describing in detail how the U.S. and British military pioneered firebombing raids. They first targeted the civilian population of Hamburg, Germany, in 1943, and later Dresden in February 1945. On the evening of March 9-10, 1945, some 300 U.S. B-29s firebombed Tokyo, killing as many people and causing more damage than in Hiroshima. By the summer of 1945, of Japan's 66 largest cities, 59 had been destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people were dead and 20 million were homeless.

Getting out the truth about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the other crimes committed by the U.S. military during World War II helps expose the true, hideous face of capitalism. And not just the face of militarist and fascist regimes of capitalism, but of liberal democratic capitalism carrying out mass murder as a tool of foreign policy.

### Growing debate in Japan

The debate that has opened up in the United States over the atomic bombings 50 years ago — a discussion fueled by the Smithsonian's caving in to rightist pressure to drop its exhibit on the bombing attacks — is being followed closely in Japan. It coincides with a deepening debate there over the savagery of that government's military and colonial policies in the 1930s and 1940s.

Several government ministers have been forced to resign because they publicly refused to hold the Japanese government responsible for a series of atrocities. Among these crimes are forcing Koreans to work as virtual slave laborers in Japanese factories and mines; kidnapping Korean and Chinese women to serve as

sex slaves for Japanese soldiers; the massacre and rape of 200,000 Chinese civilians in Nanking in 1937; the massacre of tens of thousands of Filipino civilians when defeated Japanese troops withdrew from Manila in 1945; the grotesque use of Chinese and Koreans as guinea pigs for medical experiments; and the cruel treatment of prisoners of war, including the infamous Bataan march.

A new wing was added to the Hiroshima Peace Museum last year that takes steps toward describing the evolution of Japanese military and colonial policies. But the pressure to come to grips with past policies is moving so fast that we noticed one exhibit had been recently updated with a temporary label giving some details of the Nanking massacre.

On August 15, the 50th anniversary of the Japanese government's surrender, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, with the approval of his cabinet, stated that Japan had followed "a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensure the Japanese people in a fateful crisis, and through its colonial rule and invasion caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations." This is the strongest criticism to date by a top government official of the wartime military regime and it will accelerate the current debate.

Right-wing protesters immediately denounced the prime minister, according to an Associated Press report. From loudspeakers atop a sound truck in Tokyo, one protester bellowed, "If Murayama and other politicians want to apologize, let them slit their bellies and apologize!" We had seen similar right-wing sound trucks, festooned with Japanese flags, in the

streets of Hiroshima on August 5 blaring the same type of message.

Many participants in the peace conferences leading up to the August 6 and 9 ceremonies believe a much more thorough reckoning with the past needs to be made and more affirmative action is needed to compensate the victims of the military regime's bestial actions.

In a final declaration the 1995 World Conference Against A-and H-Bombs also criticized the Japanese government for refusing "to denounce the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" by Washington and instead emphasizing that "Japan is the 'only A-bombed country.'" Tokyo, the statement added, acts "as a loyal partner in U.S. nuclear policies."

An exhibit in the Peace Museum presents the facts about the 94 U.S. military sites in Japan, where 63,000 U.S. troops are stationed. It describes the various ways the Japanese military works hand-in-glove with the U.S. military, including through its Command, Control, Communication, Intelligence force, which is designed to help manage a nuclear war. At the same time there are capitalist forces in Japan that are pushing for the military to have more independence from Washington.

The unfolding debate in Japan, as in the United States, is not primarily about history, but connected with the crisis of capitalism that is driving the wealthy rulers in Japan and the United States into more fierce competition and toward the need to use military might to enforce their policies. The decision taken several years ago by the Japanese government to permit its soldiers to participate in UN armed "peacekeeping" forces in Cambodia reflected this pressure and has served to intensify the debate in Japan.

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**WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown:** 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. 147 East 900 South. Donation: Program \$3. Dinner \$5. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**Widening War in the Balkans. Support Bosnia's Sovereignty.** Speaker: Joanne Kuni-ansky, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 25, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills (*Old Children's Court*, off Elizabeth St.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 281-3297.

## BRITAIN

### London

**Cuba Lives! A Panel Reportback from the International Youth Festival in Havana.** Fri., Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: (0171) 928-7993.

## AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297.

## BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993.

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

## CANADA

**Montreal:** 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2L 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

**Toronto:** 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## FRANCE

**Paris:** MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21.

## ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klapparstig 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502.

## NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

## SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

**Stiff proposition** — Russia's embalming research center, which monitors Lenin's tomb, now accepts commercial orders. An embalming that will last for six

**Harry Ring**

months costs \$300,000. A long-term mummification, like the one Stalin had done on Lenin, \$1 million plus. So far, no buyers.

Must be a popular organiza-

tion — It will cost San Francisco a reported \$1 million to provide security for the United Nations' 50th anniversary. One dispatch said: "The final cost will not be known until officials find out how much it will cost to open a new jail wing to house protesters and to hire additional police."

**It's in their genes?** — Richmond, Virginia, officials, ducked a proposal to place a statue of late tennis great Arthur Ashe next to those of Confederate generals. The proposal to honor the Black athlete was rapped by the Heritage Preservation Association. It said another site would pay proper tribute to Ashe, "without violating the historic sensibilities of Rich-

mond's Confederate-American population."

**Bourgeois, petty bourgeois, and proletarian pasta** — In an experiment, a transnational is marketing various brands of pasta in Venezuela. One is priced for the wealthy, a second for middle-class folks, and a third for the working class.

**Be nice if that were their only weapons** — In Miami, Delta Business Systems plugs its Canon copying equipment on a billboard declaring, "Business is a war. We'll supply the Canons."

**Taking care of business** — Rockwell International will pay

\$23.6 million to settle federal charges that it padded a B-1 bomber contract by \$80 million. A spokesman assured the money has already been set aside and Rockwell's quarterly bottom line won't be affected.

**Dime on the dollar** — Richard Woodward, a lawyer with a Wall Street firm that handles big-time corporate mergers, was charged with passing inside trader information to his brother and a few friends. Together, they cleaned up \$900,000 plus. Woodward and his brother settled a Securities and Exchange Commission complaint by agreeing to return \$110,000 of their gains. They also pled guilty to a single federal count. Wonder

how much time they'll do?

**Knock on metal** — For a mere \$500, astrologer Joyce Jillson gave Ford honchos a list of the best dates in June to launch their reworked models of the Ford Taurus and the Mercury Sable. Joked a Ford spokesperson, "There seems to be kind of a natural link between astrology and automobiles."

**They work that much harder?**

— Tracking the income of the chief executive officers of 124 top corporations, a researcher found that in 1992, the CEOs "earned" 145 times as much as the average worker. Last year, it increased to 187 times as much.

## Florida activists fight anti-immigrant campaign

BY SETH GALINSKY

FT. LAUDERDALE, Florida — More than 250 people attended an immigrant rights conference here August 5. Initiated by the Miami-based Committee for Dignity and Justice for Immigrants, the gathering brought together a wide variety of organizations and activists from southern Florida.

Among the resolutions adopted in the final plenary session was a call for a statewide march in Miami in October. Petitions are being circulated in the state seeking to get two propositions modeled after California's Proposition 187 on the ballot in Florida in 1996. The measures would deny health care and education to undocumented workers.

Two busloads of Haitian refugee activists from Veye-Yo attended the conference, along with dozens of members of the Florida Farm Workers Association. Endorsers and participants in the event included the American Friends Service Committee, Cambio Cubano, Catholic Community Services, the Colombian Liberal Directorate of Florida, the garment workers union UNITE, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, the Puerto Rican Democratic Committee of Broward County, the Salvadoran Community Center, and the Socialist Workers Party.

Eugenio Torres, from the League of Hispanic Voters, opened the conference. "Our main purpose is to form a united front to defeat attempts to pass a Proposi-

tion 187-type law in Florida," he said. "The hard part is still ahead."

"All you have to do is visit farms around the United States," stated Angel Dominguez, director of the Workers' Center, a project set up by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. "Who does the work? Immigrants."

Dominguez pointed out that immigrant workers helped build the textile unions in the United States.

Joe Peña, representing Florida governor Lawton Chiles, also spoke at the opening event. Chiles is opposed to any Proposition 187-type laws, Peña said, but he is for the federal government "more effectively enforcing the laws to ensure controlled immigration."

In a series of workshops during the day-long meeting, participants exchanged ideas on how to fight anti-immigrant propositions and how to advance the rights of undocumented workers.

One workshop focused on lessons from California. Keynote speaker María Jiménez, director of the Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Program out of Houston helped spark a debate. She stated that the large number of Mexican flags carried by young people who marched against Proposition 187 in Los Angeles "was an issue." Carrying the Mexican flag was "a reaffirmation of dignity," Jiménez said, but marchers should have also carried American flags.

This reporter, speaking as a representa-



Militant/Rich Stuart

February 1995 march to defend immigrant rights in Seattle. Measures modeled after California's Proposition 187 are being floated in many states.

tive of the Socialist Workers Party, said, "The campaign against immigrant rights is an attack on the working class as a whole. The ruling class wants to divide working people and convince us to blame immigrants for the problems we face, instead of the real source of the problem — the system that puts profits before human needs. Workers must see ourselves not as Americans, but as citizens of the world in order to fight effectively."

At the final plenary, María Hernández from the Florida Farm Workers Associa-

tion motivated the proposal for a march through downtown Miami in October. "We should stop saying 'American' when we mean people from the United States," Hernández said. "We are all Americans, whether we are from South, Central, or North America."

*Seth Galinsky is a member of the United Transportation Union in Miami. Rachele Fruitt, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Miami, contributed to this article.*

## Pamphlet is powerful weapon in defense of Irish prisoners

*Where is Liberty? The Prosecution of Irish Republicans in the United States*, Orange Blossom Press, 34 pp., \$4.95.

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporters of the fight for Irish freedom, as well as democratic rights in the United States, now have a new weapon with the publication of *Where is Liberty? The Prosecution of Irish Republicans in the United States*. The pamphlet, a project of the international campaign on behalf of Irish political prisoners known as Saoirse, describes the cases of 27 men and women who are currently facing U.S. government attempts to prosecute, jail, or deport them because of

their active opposition to British rule in the north of Ireland.

In the lives of these fighters, the reader gets a glimpse of the ghastly nightmare that the British capitalists have created in the nationalist communities of Northern Ireland. Their experiences and those of their families are told: the random beatings, arson, torture by loyalist thugs and British soldiers; the frame-up system, with its stool pigeons, juryless courts, and internment; and the prisons and jails filled by Irish youth.

Through *Where is Liberty?* the story of Washington's willingness to persecute Irish freedom fighters on behalf of its British government ally is also told. Activists forced to flee Ireland to the United States have faced government harassment and deportation orders. All of the arbitrary rules, policies, and practices used by Immigration and Naturalization Service cops to deny immigrant workers their rights are employed with special vengeance against Irish activists.

Working people in the United States and Ireland face a common enemy: the capitalist rulers in Washington, who have always opposed freedom for Ireland and who trample on the rights of working people every day inside the United States. Defense of these Irish activists is a fight for the rights of all.

*Where is Liberty?* is available from the Irish Northern Aid Committee, 363 7th Ave. Suite 405, New York, NY 10001, or from the Irish American Unity Conference, 529 14th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20045.

### MILITANT PRISONER FUND

The *Militant* offers special, subsidized subscriptions to prisoners for only \$12 a year. These low-cost subscriptions are made available by readers' donations to the *Militant* Prisoner Fund. Help spread the *Militant* among working people behind bars. Send your contribution to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York NY 10014.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

September 11, 1970

Price 10¢

August 26 was truly an historic day. The Women's Strike for Equality demonstrations marked a qualitatively new stage in the development of the women's liberation struggle and it signified the addition of a powerful new layer to the process of radicalization now occurring in this country. August 26 will be seen as marking the emergence of women's liberation as a mass force, one that takes America a step closer to the socialist revolution.

The impact of the demonstrations reached into every nook and cranny of the country. Even someone like *New York Post* columnist Pete Hamill, who has previously used his column to mock and sneer at the women's liberation movement was moved to second thoughts. The day after the huge New York demonstrations he wrote, "Well, the laughing and the snickering are now officially over."

Almost awestruck, Hamill described the impact of seeing a demonstration of some 35-40,000 march down Fifth Avenue — "that line of women, filling the width of the avenue, shouting for equal jobs, free abortion on demand, and 24-hour day-care centers."

The demonstrations definitively refuted

the charge that the women's liberation movement is limited to educated and well-to-do women and has nothing to do with working class, poor and Black women. Even the jaundiced *New York Times* reported, "Every kind of woman you ever see in New York was there."

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FIVE (5) CENTS

August 25, 1945

One million automobile and aircraft workers in more than 1,000 locals of the CIO United Automobile Workers in this country and Canada were informed last week by telegrams from the union's international executive board that "our no-strike pledge came to an end at the moment President Truman announced the surrender of Japan..."

This is the first formal action by any leading international union, CIO or AFL, to scrap the policy imposed on the union ranks right after Pearl Harbor, which throughout the war kept labor helplessly shackled before the onslaughts of Big Business and its government.

UAW President R.J. Thomas accompanied his announcement of the termination of the no-strike pledge with his own fearful admonition against any "rash of strikes." He emphasized a clause in the UAW constitution forbidding local strikes "without the authorization of the international president and executive board."

# Keep up fight for Abu-Jamal...

The successful August 12 demonstration in Philadelphia was an important boost in the fight to win a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal. It was also the largest mobilization against the death penalty in some time. The challenge now is for supporters of Abu-Jamal and all opponents of capital punishment to maintain the momentum and win broader support.

Now is not the time to pause, but to keep the pressure on. The cops, the courts, and the government — while set back — have not abandoned their hopes of seeing Abu-Jamal in the death chamber.

Trying to take some wind out of the sails of Abu-Jamal's supporters, a recent *New York Times* story made much to do about the celebrities who have lent their support to his case. "Abu-Jamal can only be thankful for the agitation of famous people," says *New York Times* writer Francis Cline, implying that "radical chic" made the case a "cause," whether it is legitimate or not. An editorial in the August 17 *Times* cautions those who are trying to expose the frame-up of Abu-Jamal to "be careful" saying, "The case for his innocence is not unimpeachable."

But the biased courtroom performance of "hanging judge" Albert Sabo and the facts that have come to light about the frame-up character of the case against Abu-Jamal have convinced thousands of people around the world not to "be careful," but to demand justice. The power of this fight is aided by well-known figures who have come forward to help, but the victory of the stay of execution belongs to Abu-Jamal, who refuses to silently go to his death, and to the thousands who took to the

streets in protest on his behalf.

Working people can look to the case of Clarence Brandley, a Black man who was wrongly convicted in Texas of rape and murder in 1981, to see how the government will fight to maintain the death penalty. Brandley was tried twice by an all-white jury and sentenced to death.

A defense committee waged a struggle on his behalf and exposed the racist frame-up by the cops, the prosecution, and the judge. Only after thousands rallied to his defense and the case received national prominence was he eventually freed.

Capital punishment is a weapon used by the wealthy class to terrorize working people. In South Africa, where the death penalty was recently abolished, at least 1,212 people were hanged in the decade between 1979 and 1989. That's an average of more than two executions a week! Many rail workers, miners, and other fighters against the apartheid system were placed on death row.

Civil rights organizations, the labor movement, and other groups can be won to this fight. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference pledged to throw its weight into the fight along with "the hundreds of organizations and individuals worldwide who are demanding — here and now — justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal."

The working class has more at stake than anyone else in fighting for a new trial for Abu-Jamal and to abolish the death penalty. Supporters of his fight for a new trial and the lifting of the death sentence should explain his case to co-workers and urge the labor movement to throw its weight into the battle.

## ...and Mark Curtis, too

Contrary to what the prison officials had hoped for, Mark Curtis walked out of lockup and back into the general prison population at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison stronger, not beaten down. For the last seven years, prison authorities have tried to break him, to destroy his defense, and to set an example to intimidate others who are active in their unions and politics today.

In 1993, Curtis completed the sentence on a trumped-up rape charge and is now doing time on a fake burglary charge tacked on by the cops and prosecutors several weeks after his arrest. According to Iowa Board of Parole statistics, prisoners released in 1994 who were convicted of the same burglary charge as Curtis served an average of 76.2 months behind bars. In September Curtis will have spent 84 months in Iowa prisons.

The Iowa State Board of Parole continues to ignore Curtis's application for release, even though he meets the requirements under the law: a good work and personal conduct record in prison, community support, and length of time served.

Each extra day in prison opens the eyes of greater

numbers of people around the world to the political nature of the frame-up of this union fighter and socialist. More and more people are forced to ask, why is he still in jail?

There are important new opportunities to broaden support and step up pressure on Iowa officials for Curtis's release.

Activists in defense of Curtis can reach out to workers and youth entering political action in the fight to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal. Defenders of the Cuban revolution will also be attracted to Mark Curtis's fight for justice. Union fighters like those at the Detroit newspapers, who are striking against union busting, will also see the Mark Curtis fight as related to their struggle.

The campaign to sell *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* is an important tool in this effort, as the pamphlet explains the facts behind the frame-up.

Backers of Mark Curtis's fight for parole have been sending letters to the Iowa authorities urging his release. Over the next several weeks supporters should step up this effort to put maximum pressure on prison officials to grant Curtis a hearing and consider his release.

## No requiem for abortion rights

Opponents of abortion rights have tried to claim a major victory, latching onto the announcement that the woman whose case was the basis for the landmark decision legalizing abortion in 1973 had changed her views. But a sober look at the facts shows these opponents, and especially the rightist groups who have tried to shut down clinics, have lost ground.

While attacks on abortion rights have come from Democratic and Republican party politicians at the state and federal levels, as well as a range of rightists who get wind in their sails from their actions, antiabortion forces have not succeeded in dealing a decisive blow to the right codified in the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

It was neither the action of the men on the Supreme Court at the time, nor the efforts of capitalist politicians that won women the right to choose. The 1973 ruling was the result of years of struggle. It was the product of debates and demonstrations that forced open a public discussion and won the majority to the view that control-

ling your own body is a fundamental right.

Thousands of women who took to the streets, coming on top of a rise in social struggles for Black rights and against the U.S. government's war in Vietnam, compelled those in power to legalize what women had won through struggle.

The unrelenting campaign to try to reverse this gain was begun as soon as the law was passed, and there have been some serious limits placed on access to abortion. But legal abortion remains the law of the land.

Just as abortion rights were won, the key to defending them remains the active, mobilized response by workers, youth, and others willing to stand up and fight back. The rightist organizations who have bombed, shot at, and blockaded clinics have been thwarted in their campaign by the effectiveness of the mobilizations in defense of abortion rights. Over-confident boasting on the part of the anti-choice forces is aimed at accomplishing through hype what they have failed to achieve in fact.

## Brazil land fight

Continued from Page 3

mand the government expropriate their land too and give it to the peasants."

"Just think about all the unproductive land in Brazil. And at the same time, there are 4.8 million landless peasants," said Vilant emphatically. He scooped up a handful of sandy soil in the central square of the camp. "This is how bad some of the soil was, from lack of care. And look at how we've transformed it," he added, pointing to the rows of vegetables in a dark brown field nearby. "If there was a real land reform in Brazil, there wouldn't be any more hunger and our country wouldn't have a huge foreign debt."

On a tour of the camp, Vilant pointed out some of their crops: corn, beans, rice, cassava, cotton, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, soy beans, and a variety of fruit from mamey to passion fruit. They also raise dairy cattle, which provide enough milk for the children.

### Fight for basic services

"We had to dig our own wells, because we have no water, electricity, or other services. That's another aspect of the land reform we're demanding from the government," the young MST activist said. Most families here live in small shacks made with black plastic sheets over a wood frame.

"Here's our grade school," he explained, pointing to the four small, neat classrooms they built. "We have an electrical generator to provide lighting for the school. The school has four regular teachers plus two adult literacy teachers. The nearest high school is in the town of Mirante," 20 miles from here.

Once a week, a doctor visits the camp's medical post, which is staffed by resident nurses. Nearby is the distribution center. "We supply people with food, shoes, and other goods," explained a young woman, Edir Segura Pereira de Nardi.

There is also an office that provides the monthly MST paper and other literature. Camp residents expressed delight at receiving a small donation of Pathfinder books for their library. "Che is my hero," said Nilton de Souza, a young camp security guard, perusing a copy of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara.

Camp residents hold regular meetings in the main square. "Our next meeting will hear a report on the MST convention as well as discussing the regular work of the camp," explained Vilant.

Alvis de Souza complained that the population of the farm settlement has gone down somewhat since April. "Not everyone can put up with the harsh conditions, so some families have left. We've had to fight the government and the landlords every step of the way."

Watching fellow camp members water the lettuce fields, he added, "But you know, this struggle has changed my life. When I joined this occupation, I was just trying to solve my own problem. Now I'm involved in something bigger."

## 'Cuba Lives'

Continued from Page 11

African National Congress Youth League of South Africa, also addressed the final session.

Most delegates reacted enthusiastically to the offer made by Castro during his speech at the August 5 march that Cuba was ready to host a world youth festival in the near future.

Castro came back to this idea at the end of his speech at the closing session. "We will not forget this meeting, and we are ready, on the orders of the youth of the world," Castro said, "to organize not just another international festival, but a worldwide youth festival. Now we have some 1,200 to 1,300 delegates. With 10,000 you have a world festival. We have the organizational capacity to do this in our country."

In consultations with other youth organizations after the festival, UJC leaders said the tentative date for the world event is the summer of 1997.

In her remarks at the conclusion of the gathering, Victoria Velázquez, first secretary of the UJC, proposed that in the spirit of proletarian internationalism the delegates pay tribute to the people of Japan, who were commemorating that weekend the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki "by the empire in the North."

After thanking the participants from around the world for their presence, Velázquez concluded, "We are now more confident than ever that Cuba is not alone."

### Corrections

The article titled "Cuban leader speaks at Managua summit" on page 3 of *Militant* issue no. 28, dated August 7, states that a group of Nicaraguan peasants are "occupying land belonging to the University of Central America" and demanding title to it. This is inaccurate. The peasants were demanding title to land from state-owned farms that have been broken up, so that they can obtain credit. Their protest took place at the University.

An error also appeared in the article titled "Thousands mark Hiroshima Day" on page 16 of issue no. 30, dated August 21. The term used by the aboriginal people of Tahiti for themselves is "Maohi." It was misspelled "Maori."

# Kenworth truck plant workers strike in Canada

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about

north of Chicago. "They came to negotiations wanting to take things away even though they're making record profits."

Schey is one of the 475 workers who struck ITT Bell & Gossett August 7. The company manufactures automobile and heating parts.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Picket lines went up at the Kenworth truck plant in Ste-Thérèse August 8. Eight hundred fifty workers began a strike after negotiations between the company and Local 728 of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) broke down. Union members had voted 95 percent in favor of a walkout August 3.

"No Contract, No Work. Dignity and Respect," reads one sign in front of the plant, reflecting the sentiment of most workers. The strikers are picketing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The union is seeking improvements in the pension plan, including changes that would allow workers to retire earlier without any financial penalty. Workers, young and old, are determined to fight for this. "All we want is the pension fund and job security," explained one striker.

Many workers of retirement age would like to retire sooner rather than later. If allowed to do so this would open up jobs for younger workers in a period of hard economic times and high unemployment. Québec has one of the highest unemployment levels in Canada. Yvan Bourgeois, president of Local 728, said a letter has gone out to affiliates in the Québec Federation of Labor asking for support for the strike.

Kenworth, owned by Paccar of Seattle, has two plants in Seattle, Washington, and several others in the United States.

The vast majority of workers at the Ste-Thérèse plant are French-speaking Québécois. The strike includes 100 office workers.

### 'They want to take more, even with record profits'

"I think this is a union-busting effort," said Ron Schey, picket captain of the early morning shift in Morton Grove, Illinois, just

The strikers are organized by Local 890 of the United Auto Workers (UAW). This is their first strike since 1974.

The plant runs three shifts and has been at full throttle for some time. Workers report that they often work 12-hour shifts and some believe the company has built up a sizable inventory.

ITT proposes paying overtime only after workers complete 40 hours of work. This means the company could demand unlimited hours during a single day without paying overtime, or schedule weekend work at straight time.

The company is also seeking to impose mandatory overtime subject to disciplinary action.

Under the old contract, workers hired in at 85 percent of pay and took six months to reach the top scale. The new contract seeks to extend that period of time to five years. A union fact sheet says this will "create dissension and hard feelings between union brothers and sisters so as to disrupt the unity of our membership."

Another issue in the strike is management's attempt to eliminate more than a dozen steward positions in the plant.

After one week on strike, no union members have crossed the picket line and union truck drivers are honoring the strike. Much of the nonunion trucking in and out of the plant continues, however. Some of the production work is now being done by office personnel.

### Montreal casino workers take strike action

Some 1,300 members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) at the Montreal Casino have been on strike since the end of June. The casino, which

is operated by Loto-Québec, locked them out when workers started wearing union buttons to push the employer to negotiate a first contract.

Workers responded by voting to turn the lockout into a strike. Large picket lines are organized every day except Thursday, when the union holds its weekly meetings followed by special actions.

Workers are demanding seniority rights, that communication with employees be in French as well as English, union representation when workers are called into the office, and a four-day, 36-hour workweek.

The provincial government, which owns Loto-Québec, ordered the conflict into arbitration. Under the Québec labor code the arbitrator can force the union members back to work and im-

Québécois government. Its refusal to act on these questions in the strike at the casino, as well as recent moves to close several hospitals in Québec, has generated much debate in the labor movement.

### Kmart workers protest firing of union activists

Dozens of members of the United Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees union (UNITE) at the Kmart distribution center in Greensboro, North Carolina, walked off the job and into the company offices recently to protest the treatment of three union activists.

Governor Spencer, Randy Pixley, and Johnny Rutledge, who are all active in the union, were called into the office July 14 on suspi-



Striking casino workers in Québec protested in front of Ministry of Labor August 10. The 1,300 strikers are demanding seniority rights and a four-day, 36-hour workweek.

company, management refused to look at them and fired the two workers.

"We know why they were suspended — because they're Black and in the union," said one worker at the office protest.

Another protest was held at the office later the same day to express support for the victimized workers.

The union met to discuss further actions to respond to this attack. While many workers felt positive about the actions at the company offices, they acknowledged that more would have to be done to get the workers back in the plant.

### Filipino garment workers in Greece score a victory

After a 15-day protest in front of the Philippine embassy in Athens, the Greek ministry of public order rescinded an August 20 deportation order for 88 Filipino workers and granted them an extension to stay in the country until January 1996. The workers had been terminated from their jobs at Alexander Fashions and ordered deported.

"The decision is very significant for all Filipino and foreign workers in Greece," explained Balita, one of the workers. "It is a victory over fear, over apathy, over neglect by the representatives of the Philippine government."

The workers were employed at the plant under an agreement between the Philippine government and the company.

The Filipino workers reached out broadly both to immigrant organizations and to other unions to win their fight. They participated in a rally organized by garment workers in Athens demanding jobs. They joined the Greek workers chanting "we too want jobs" and "Greeks and foreigners, workers united." The Greek workers, at first surprised by this slogan, eventually joined in the chant.

Contributing to this column were: Monica Jones, member CAW Local 728 in Ste-Thérèse, Québec; Frank Forrestal, member of UAW Local 551 in Chicago; Grant Hargrave, member Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union in Montreal; Mark Rahn, member of UNITE in Greensboro; and Georges Mehrabian in Athens.

## LETTERS

### Visit with Roger Warren

On July 2, I visited framed-up gold miner Roger Warren in Stony Mountain Institution just outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Stony Mountain is a federal maximum security penitentiary with over 500 inmates. The majority of inmates are Native.

I brought several issues of the *Militant*, *The Second Declaration of Havana*, some material on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and some material on the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival. The material was greatly appreciated. Roger is an avid reader. He enjoys reading the *Militant* and passes it along to other inmates in the prison.

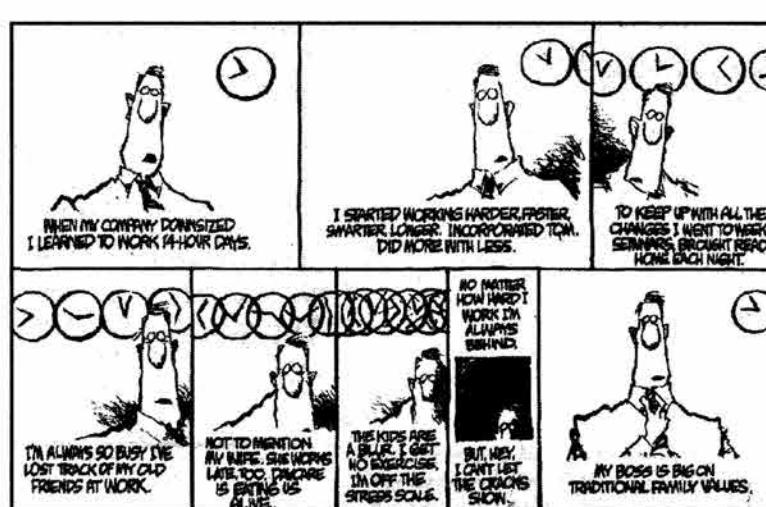
Warren recently won payment for his lawyers from the government. "I feel pretty upbeat about the government funding being granted for the legal appeal," he explained.

We jumped from topic to topic. "The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is an obvious frame-up. The courts suppressed evidence from people who saw another person at the scene of where the policeman was shot," said Warren.

On hearing that I was going to the Cuba Lives Festival in August, Roger gave his view that "the U.S. has never forgiven Cuba for kicking out the multinationals and the international banks and going their own way...."

"I just don't believe that Cuba has been ruled for over 35 years with an iron fist.... I think Cubans have a better life than people living in so-called democracies like Mexico. If Fidel Castro hadn't done what he did in Cuba the people there would be as bad off as people in Mexico today," he explained.

Ned Dmytryshyn  
Vancouver, British Columbia



### Smart business'

Recently Labor Secretary Reich released the Labor Department's annual review of what capitalists spend on wages and benefits for the average worker.

While wages and benefits continue downward, the stock market is at an all-time high!

And how does the Big Business news media cover all this? For the most part they either ignore it or bury it. In an *L.A. Times* article it was buried on page 26. Both the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* relegated one story each to their respective business sections.

Since they are capitalists of course, that's just "smart business."

H. S.  
Cazadero, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## 'Detroit news bosses won't scare us'

Striking newspaper workers win solidarity after three weeks on picket line

BY JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — As the strike by 2,500 newspaper workers entered its fifth week, this city's two daily newspapers, the Detroit *Free Press*, owned by Knight-Ridder, and the Detroit *News*, owned by Gannett, the largest newspaper companies in the United States, are stepping up their union-busting actions. At the same time, union members continue to enjoy the support of thousands of working people throughout the area.

Confronted with the fact, as described by Roger Worthington of the *Chicago Tribune*, that "it's hard to find a copy of the combined Detroit *News* and *Free Press* on sale in the downtown area and outlying neighborhoods," the newspaper owners have stepped up the pressure on the strikers.

The *Free Press* sent letters to Newspaper Guild members threatening to replace them permanently if they did not return to work by August 10.

The employers claim one third of the Guild membership in the editorial departments at the two newspapers have returned to work. Lou Mleczko, Newspaper Guild Local 22 president, reports that about 100 members of his local have returned to work.

Management says that 87 other strikers, members of the Teamsters, Communications Workers of America, and Graphic Communications International Union, have crossed the picket lines and that 800 replacement workers have been hired.

Meanwhile, solidarity with the strikers continues to grow. Unions in the Detroit area have organized to strengthen the



Strikers and supporters picket outside *Detroit Free Press* plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Militant/Steve Marshall

picket lines on different days. Auto workers, teachers, and truck drivers have joined the strikers walking the line. Workers throughout the region are boycotting the paper.

A local food store chain is offering discount groceries to the strikers. Other small merchants are supporting the strikers in this way.

The AFL-CIO central labor council plans to highlight the newspaper strike at the Labor Day parade. After the parade

demonstrators will rally in front of the newspaper offices. The annual parade usually draws tens of thousands of workers to downtown Detroit.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the strike has cut circulation dramatically, leading 250 advertisers, including national chains like Kmart, to pull out. Advertisers who have stayed on are getting space at bargain-basement rates. "Even the papers acknowledge that in some areas carriers are delivering papers to any home with a

porch or driveway," the *Journal* reports. "One suburban town is fining carriers for blanketing block after block with unwanted papers."

Former mayor Coleman Young released a three-page letter he sent to newspaper management in which he charged that the newspapers' actions "are part of a long-range plan to break the unions."

Two suburban city councils have joined Detroit by passing resolutions calling on the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the Joint Operating Agreement, under which the business operations of the two papers have been merged.

In response to the labor resistance to the bosses' demands, John Wells, head of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, has scheduled a meeting to attempt to restart negotiations. In a letter dated August 9 he requested all parties "take no action to exacerbate the existing situation." Union officials postponed a rally planned for August 12 but the company went ahead with its plans to replace strikers.

At the same time the *Free Press* was ordering editors and writers back to work, three large retailers in the area decided to take advantage of the discounts and resumed advertising in the struck papers, joining Hudson's Department Stores.

The employers' moves have stiffened the resolve of many strikers. As a picketing press worker explained, "They want to scare us, but they won't. We'll outlast them and the scabs."

John Sarge is a member of United Auto Workers Local 900.

## Managers walk free in Canada mine explosion

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Two managers have walked free from charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence stemming from a coal mine explosion in Nova Scotia three years ago that killed 26 miners.

On June 9, Judge Robert Anderson of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court took the unusual step of lifting charges against Gerald Phillips and Roger Parry, the former manager and underground manager, respectively, at the Westray mine.

The trial began February 6 in Pictou, Nova Scotia, only a few miles away from the shattered mine.

Family members and friends of the 26 victims were devastated by the decision. "There's no justice system in Canada. Not a bit," declared Robert Bell outside the courtroom. His son died in the explosion.

The pretext the judge used for his decision was that government prosecutors failed to disclose several pieces of evidence to defense lawyers. He acknowledged he could have adjourned proceedings to permit disclosure of the evidence or declared a mistrial and cleared the way for another trial.

Since the explosion, the families and friends of the victims have waged a public campaign demanding that criminal charges be laid against the company and that a public inquiry be held. They have been stalled by the courts, police, and government every step of the way.

Unsafe and illegal practices in the Westray mine were widely reported in television and newspaper documentaries after the explosion. The revelations included threats and intimidation used by mine managers, including Parry and Phillips, against miners who protested unsafe conditions. There was no union in the mine.

"We have researched recent court deci-

sions," Kenton Teasdale, a spokesperson for the Westray families group, said in an interview, "and the precedents are very clear. A stay of proceedings is a last resort only, when no other remedies are possible. We believe that a delay of proceedings or a mistrial were clear options available to the judge. The judge cited two missing pieces of evidence. We acknowledge that there were problems of disclosure, but there was no irreparable damage. Everything in substance was revealed."

There were 1,400 items of evidence registered at the beginning of the trial.

"In our view," said Teasdale, "the Department of Labor is very suspect in all of this. They stand accused of negligence in their inspection duties prior to the explosion. But at the same time, they are responsible for the proper furnishing of evidence to the trial."

The Westray mine was destroyed in a powerful methane gas and coal dust explosion on May 9, 1992. It had opened less than one year earlier amid considerable controversy because of the long history of methane gas explosions in the coalfield where it was located.

The mine project was aggressively promoted by capitalist politicians, including then prime minister Brian Mulroney and Nova Scotia premier Donald Cameron.

An appeal by government prosecutors of the judge's decision has been set for November before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the Nova Scotia government is proceeding with a stalled public inquiry into the explosion. The government refused to call one in the weeks following the blast, but finally bowed to pressure. In November 1992, the provincial supreme court axed any inquiry until criminal charges were tried. The court said an inquiry could compromise the rights of

the accused mine managers.

At the first day of the hearings on July 12, the head of the criminal investigation of the Westray explosion announced he would not provide any information to the inquiry. Staff Sergeant Chesley MacDonald of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

said it might jeopardize the rights of individuals who may still face criminal charges if he were to testify.

Roger Annis is a member of Local 841 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada in Montreal.

## 14 months into strike, UAW, CAT to resume negotiations

BY STEPHEN BLOODWORTH

PEORIA, Illinois — As the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against Caterpillar, Inc., enters its 14th month, officials of the union and top-level Caterpillar executives met in Chicago August 1 to lay the groundwork for future negotiations.

At the last negotiations in March, talks broke down over a number of major issues. These include the duration of the agreement; wages, cost-of-living, and lump-sum payments; treatment of new hires and retirees; and the possible closing of the York, Pennsylvania, plant. At the August 1 meeting UAW leaders presented their position on these issues.

Meanwhile, hearings before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) began August 8. These revolve around Caterpillar's attempt to implement its "Standards of Conduct," a list of restrictions prohibiting workers from wearing clothing or displaying signs that depict the labor dispute, participating in rallies on Caterpillar property, and using language the company calls offensive, such as the word "scab."

It was the company's attempt to enforce such rules that led to the firing of some

300 workers, known to strikers as the "illegally terminated," and the union filing more than 100 charges of unfair labor practices with the NLRB over the last four years.

With the prospects for negotiations opening up again, the local UAW leadership has suspended the "G.O. rallies." These demonstrations have occurred every Thursday at lunchtime for the past 14 months at the Caterpillar General Offices in downtown Peoria. Between 100 and 400 strikers, family members, and supporters have participated in the weekly protests, which have helped to draw attention to the strike, as well as confronting Caterpillar executives who work at the international corporate headquarters. The rallies often culminate in informational reports by union officials on recent developments in the strike.

Coralee Mrazek, a leader of the strike support group Families in Solidarity, said of the rallies, "I think everyone who participated got a sense of satisfaction that you are doing something."

Stephen Bloodworth is a member of the Graphic Communications International Union in Peoria.